





REVIEWERS REVIEWED - BALTIMORE 1816

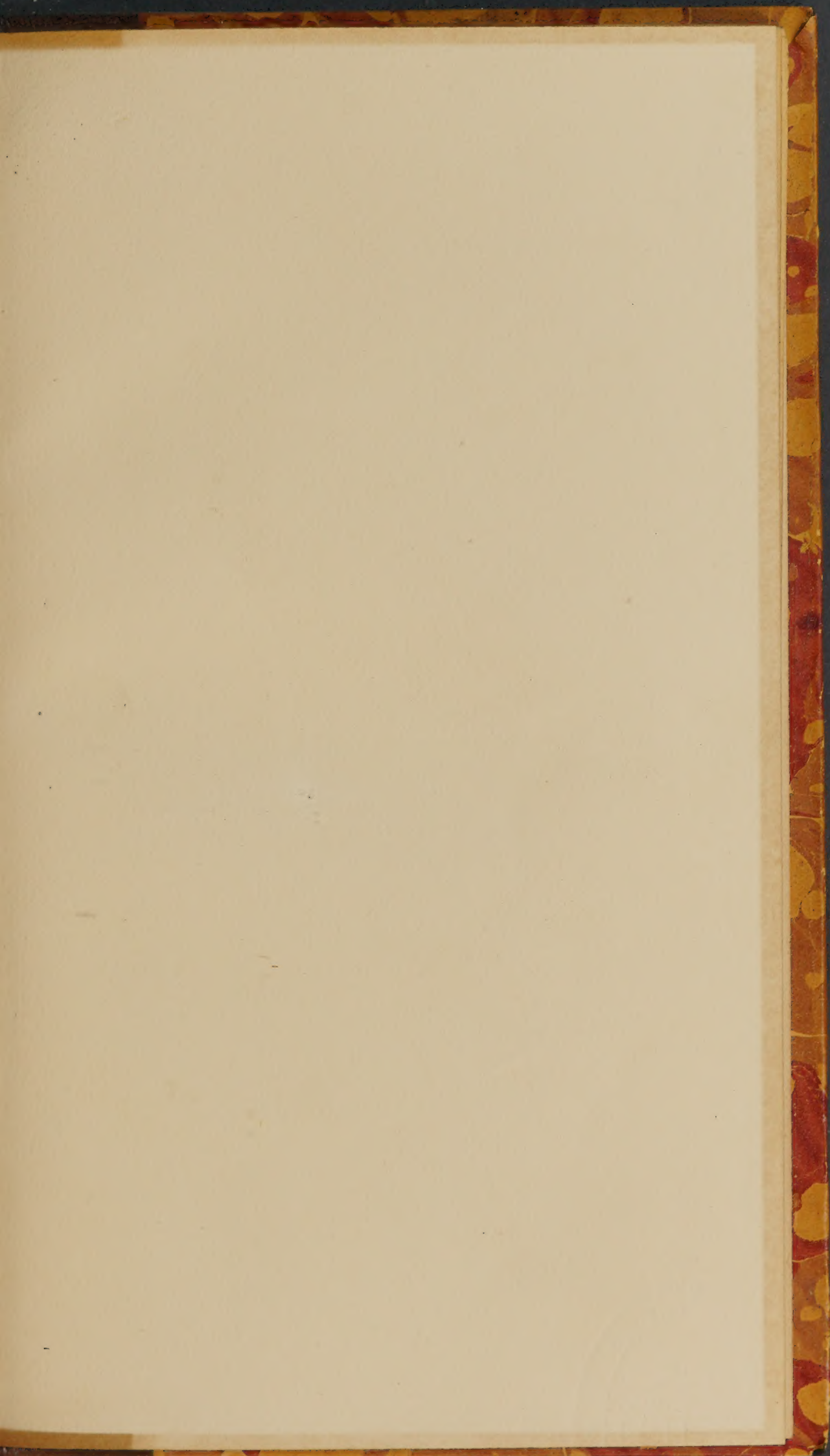




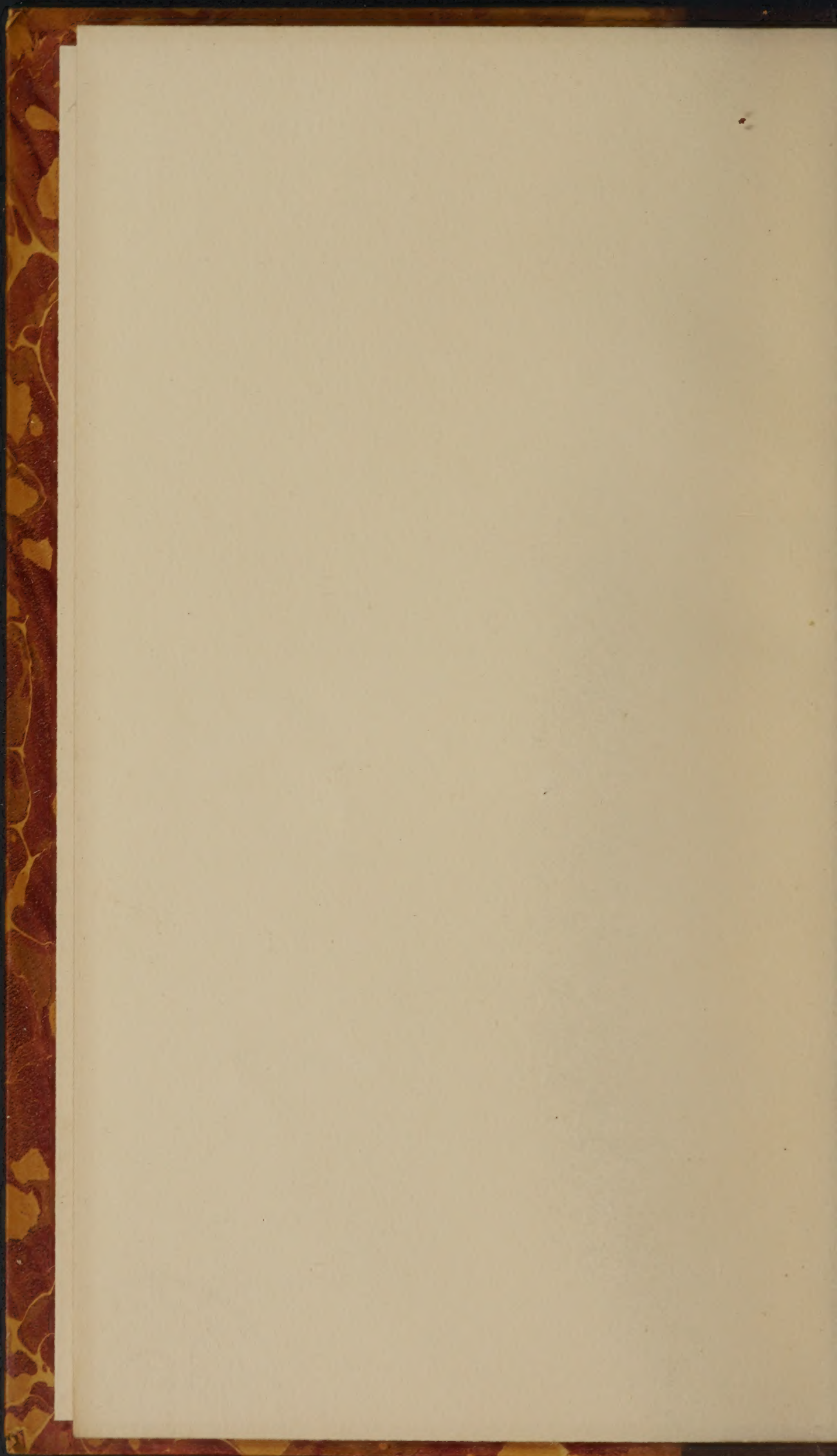




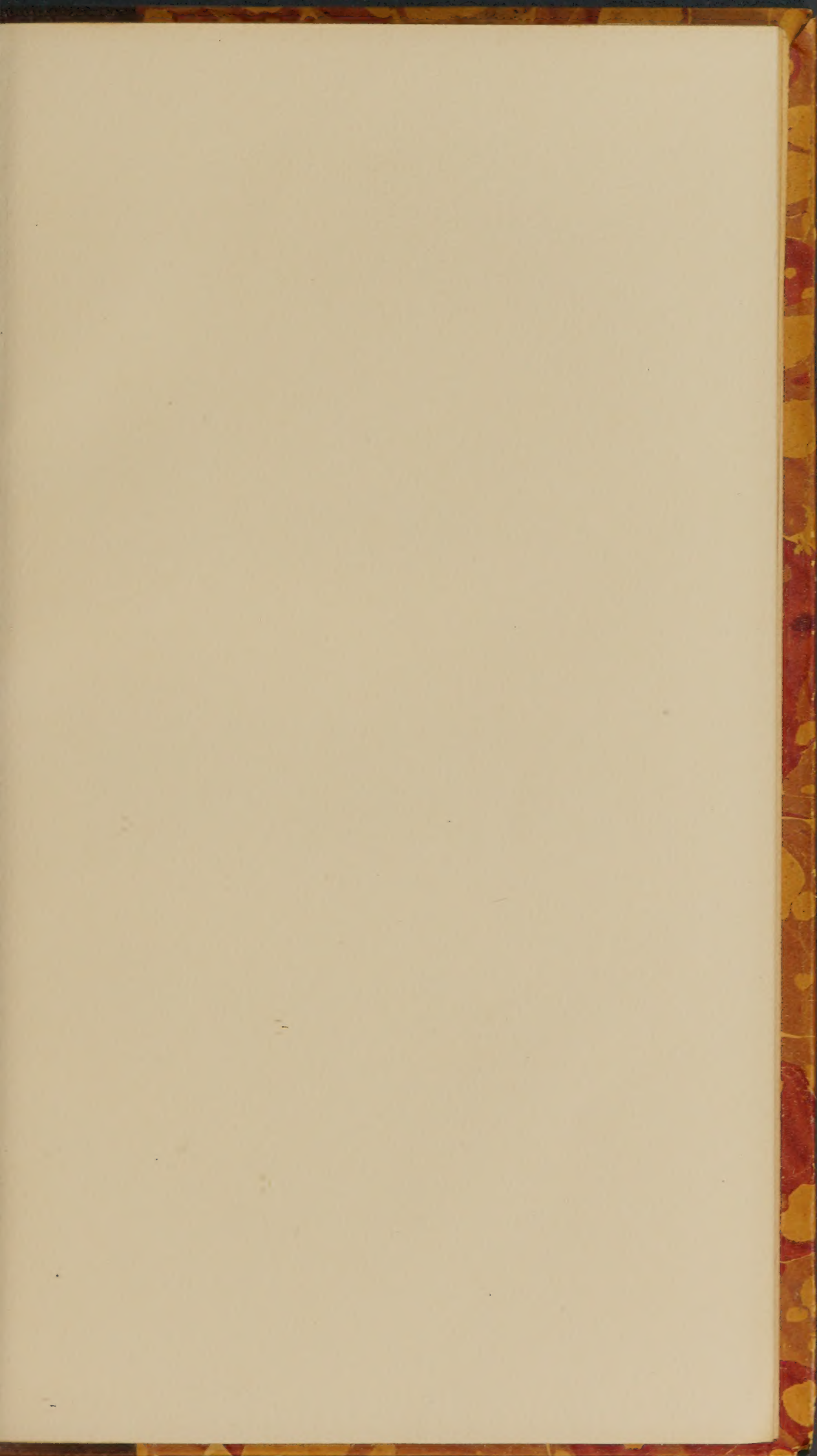
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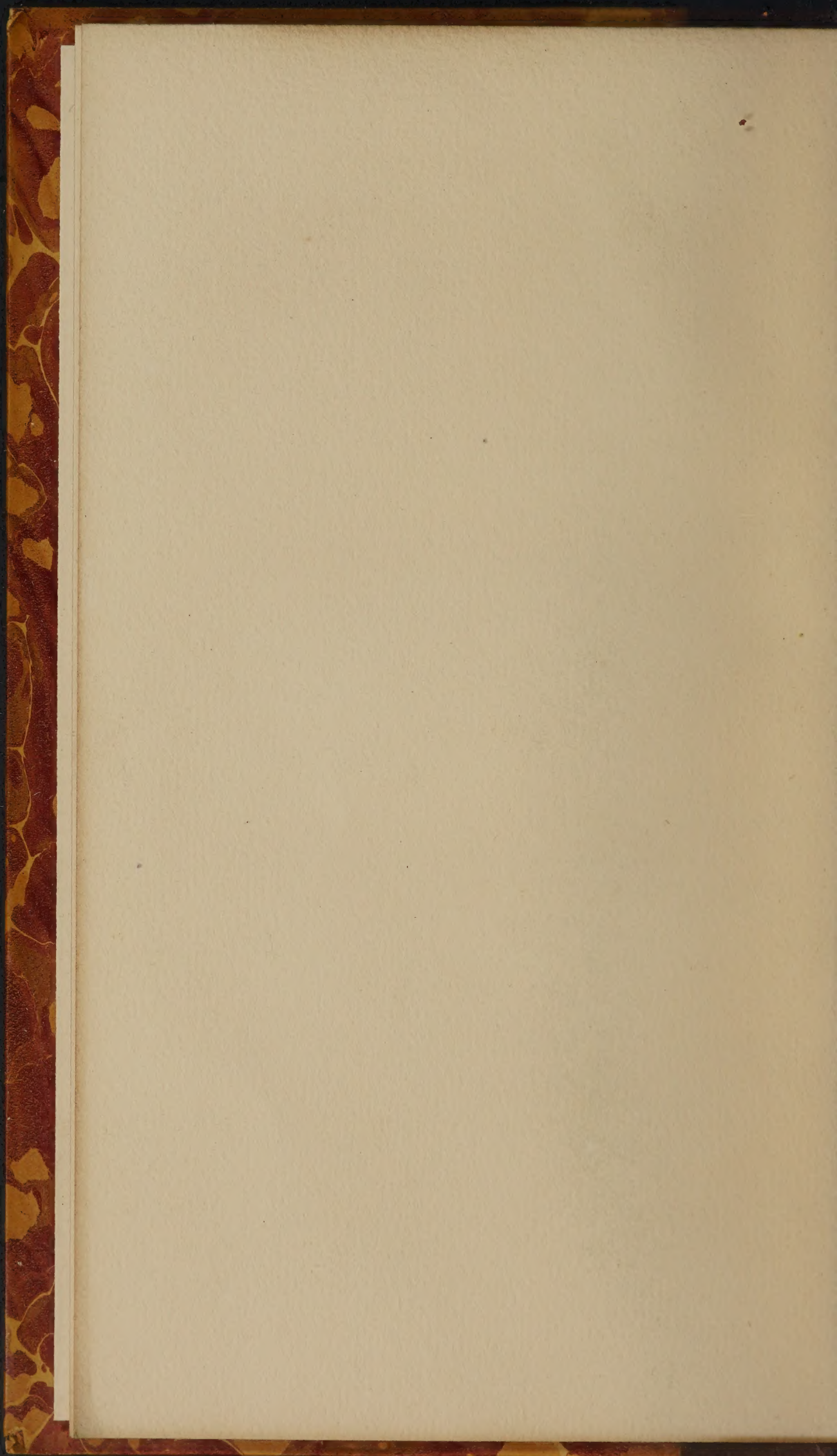














THE  
**REVIEWERS REVIEWED;**

OR

REMARKS

ON THE

**EDINBURGH REVIEW:**

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BY AN AMERICAN.

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*BALTIMORE:*

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THE

REVIEWERS REVIEWED.

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WE have always professed a vast reverence for those wonderful men, the Scotch Reviewers; and have eagerly seized every opportunity of paying them the homage of our profound admiration. Nor can we sufficiently express the obligations we feel under to them for the light which they have shed upon our dark and benighted country.

We have ever looked up to them as oracles in politics—and such they have proved themselves—as the only legitimate arbiters of taste, and the true purifiers and refiners of the English language.

But as all great men have some prominent excellence, which particularly distinguishes them, that for which these reviewers are most remarkable, is their wonderful *modesty*. This quality is the never failing concomitant of true merit; and, together with its twin sisters, Candour and Impartiality—which they also possess in an eminent degree—have so endeared them to us, that we had once

thought of writing a professed panegyric upon them. Indeed what we now propose can be little else; for we may justly say—

“Those who paint them truest, praise them most.”

We shall, by presenting a short analysis of their various merits, shew how eminently entitled they are to all our praises.

And first, as judgment is that quality which more than any other marks the superiority among men, we shall, by citing divers of their opinions, political predictions, judgments of authors, &c. &c. shew that their judgments are not merely profound—which for them would be slight praise—but absolutely infallible.

We shall likewise, by various extracts from their great work, prove their unquestionable title to the station—which it has seemed meet to them to occupy—of the arbiters of taste and the true standards of the English language.

We think, that we cannot render our countrymen a greater or more acceptable service, than by thus calling off their attention from the vulgar and barbarous writings of their own country—from the works of such inferior men—inferior, we mean, when compared with the Scotch Reviewers—as Hamilton and Jay, Washington and Ames; and even from those second rate British authors, which they have heretofore been so much in the habit of reading, Addison and Swift, Bolingbroke and Burke.

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### *Political Opinions and Predictions.*

WE will first present our readers, with a few specimens of the political opinions and predictions of these political and literary oracles.

“We may now rest assured, that no effort of ours can ward off the fate of our ancient ally, [Austria] and that the completion of



the Spanish campaign, will only be interrupted for a season by a series of victories on the Danube. In this *hopeless* state of affairs, the result of our rupture with Spain, and our alliance with Russia, in 1805," &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 264.*

"If, *which seems but too certain*, France should establish her power in the Peninsula," &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 457.*

"With respect to Spain, surely the common feelings of humanity, as well as the *soundest* views of policy, should incline us to wish, that when *the struggle of that gallant people is over*, peace may as speedily as possible be restored to them. Their spirit has already been sufficiently exerted *to secure them a reign of mitigated severity*. For the present, *this is all they can expect*. It would be blood-thirsty and cowardly in us, to foment petty insurrections, *after the only contest is at an end*, from which any good can spring, in the present unfortunate state of things. Nor will it be of any avail, to cry out against the doctrine, as pusillanimous; and to abuse us, as recommending a base submission to France. *France has conquered Europe. This is the melancholy truth. Shut our eyes to it as we may, there is no doubt about the matter.*"—*Vol. 14, p. 471.*

So in *Vol. 15, p. 293-4*, after observing, it is really idle to think of ascertaining, by argument, a question which is already too clearly settled, &c. they say:

"In these circumstances, when the North of Europe is conquered, is it allowed us to hope, that Spain may yet be delivered, or that any co-operation of ours, can do more than aggravate her subjugation?"

"The states that border upon France are ruled either by the kinsmen, or by the vassals of Bonaparte; all but the Spanish chiefs, *who have only a little hour to strut and fret*. The more remote Empire of Russia is still in peace, *and in peace she must remain, or be crushed without mercy, and without hope or restoration*: for she seemed powerful only by the prudent reserve of Catharine. The succeeding governments have experimentally shewn us how much we over-valued the resources of that country. What, then? it may be said—are we to *congratulate* ourselves on the helplessness of all the states, that might make head against France? *Certainly, if we are convinced, as it appears we should be, that nothing can be expected from their exertions,*" &c.—*Vol. 16, p. 26-7.*

"Now that she [Prussia] has been torn from the European body,

another illusion is wanting: we must needs feed our new hopes upon Moscow. *Now what we pretend to maintain, is, that we should once for all give up every expectation of conquering France, or seeing her exhausted in war,*" &c.—*Vol. 9, p. 431.*

"Let us fairly look at our case, *and not talk of War, as the means of humbling our enemy.* If we must make war, let us deplore the hard necessity; but if we wish to avoid disappointment, and indeed disgrace too, it will be prudent not to conceive *the least hope* of bettering our condition by it."—*Vol. 9, p. 427.*

Again:—

"It cannot be denied, that the people of this country are still *blind* to their real situation; that they have not *given over the hopes* of conquering France by a continuation of the war; that they have rejoiced in *the last and greatest of our calamities*—the failure of our attempts to save Europe by a peace."—*Vol. 9, p. 278.*

We shall close, with a prophecy of the subjugation of Great Britain, these political predictions; which might easily be enlarged to a far greater extent, did we not suppose that what we have cited, sufficiently establishes our Reviewers' title to that prophetic sagacity, to which they so justly lay claim—and of which they have made so modest a use.

"From a conduct so infatuated as this, we *foresee*, at no great distance, the approach of confusion and dismay, in every branch of our affairs—and the final conquest of an empire," &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 482.*

Well might these *gifted Seers*\* exclaim, "verily it is an easier trade to prophecy than ordinary mortals are apt to imagine." They have abundantly shewn that to them nothing is easier than to prophecy. It is as easy as it was for the great Glendower, to "call up spirits from the vasty deep."—"It is as easy as lying," as Hamlet says.

Who can read the extracts which we have given and not reverence the profound political wisdom of these sa-

\* Gifted we mean with second sight—a privilege peculiar to Scotchmen.



pient Reviewers? Let no one hereafter talk of the sagacity of Machiavel, the profoundness of Montesquieu,\* or the prophetic spirit of Burke! What a happiness for England, and the world, had these admonitions been regarded!

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*Opinions respecting Russia.*

WE will now give a few examples of the correctness and consistency of our Reviewers upon various other subjects—upon whole nations, as well as individuals;—and shall begin with their liberal and enlightened opinions respecting Russia.

We take the following extracts almost at random from their review of Clarke's travels in Russia. The same tone is held throughout their whole work, whenever the Russians are mentioned:

“As we are led to the general subject of Russia, and its inhabitants, we may as well take this opportunity of noticing the very interesting and even original view, which Dr. Clarke gives of their character and manners. No traveller who had seen that people could describe them as refined, or in any light entitled to our esteem and respect, &c. But at the same time we think Dr. Clarke is the first who has given us a full view of their barbarism, and placed in its real light the debased and groveling character of the whole people.”—*Vol. 16, p. 343, Review of Clarke's travels.*

Again:—

“We are now to take a view of the Nobles. The character under which they are best described, is that of overgrown children.”—*Ditto p. 344.*

Again:—

“The following picture is more general. It is a full length of a Russian Nobleman's character and habits, (if we may so speak;)

\* We beg pardon; it seems that the world has been mistaken in Montesquieu, and that he is, after all, a superficial, fantastical writer.—*See Vol. 15, p. 464, of the Rev.*

and however *disgusting*, must be contemplated by those English readers, who would know what sort of a nation it was, that, about three little years since, we all looked to as the *deliverers of Europe*, and the *great barrier against French oppression*."—*Vol. 16, p. 344, Review of Clarke's travels.*

A long extract is then given from Dr. Clarke's book, representing the Russians, *one and all*, even the highest classes of them, as the *meanest*, the most *brutal* and *detestable* of human beings. Upon which our Reviewers make the following reflection:

"We have seen what the nobles are, and what the people. The probability is, that even the monarch and his family, but at any rate his chief counsellors, should be taken from the first of those classes; his armies must necessarily be raised from the other—we may easily conjecture, then, *what is to be expected* from a court so constituted, sending forth such troops."—*Vol. 16, p. 352.*

Very little, undoubtedly, could be expected from either the monarch or his army.

Again:—

"But the proofs which later events have adduced of the barbarism of Russia, and its unfitness to support a great and useful part in European affairs, were in truth not wanting to convince us on this point."—*Vol. 16, p. 354.*

Then, after saying that Dr. Clarke's representations of Russia, gave full confirmation to their own doctrines, they proceed:

"We return him our thanks *for the boldness with which he has spoken out* on this subject—for daring to call things by their right names—for opposing the feelings originating in *gross ignorance*, we verily believe, which prompt the people in this country still to hanker after Russian alliances—for *denouncing that nation as perfectly barbarous*," &c.—*Vol. 16, p. 354.*

They close their review of Clarke, in the following words:

"Such is the picture presented to us of the Russian empire, under the most enlightened and renowned of its Sovereigns, (Ca-



tharine 2d) and such are the deeds of the people, from whose interference in the concerns of civilized nations, so mighty a check has been more than once looked for, to the progress of French injustice and oppression. *It is melancholy to reflect on the prevalence of this grand delusion.* Still more painful to think over what superior minds it has at different times borne sway. Mr. Fox, eminently gifted as he was, and distinguished above other statesmen, by sound and enlightened views of continental policy, *fell into the grievous error* of placing his confidence in cabinets of Moscovites, and forming expectations of opposing, by means of that barbarous state, a resistance to the power of France."—*Vol. 16, p. 361, Clarke's travels.*

We have taken these extracts almost at random from the review of Dr. Clarke's travels in Russia, a work which we should not hesitate to pronounce *unparalleled*, did we not recollect the travels of Ash, Weld, Parkinson, Davis, Jansen, and a host of British worthies—among whom we may reckon Mr. Jeffrey himself—who have honoured our own country with their notice.

We will give but one or two extracts more to illustrate the correctness of their opinions, the soundness and solidity of their judgments, respecting Russia. This is a favourite theme with them, and one upon which they speak with all their characteristic confidence.

"We shall stop to make one or two observations in support of the low estimate we are disposed to make of Russia as a European ally."—*Vol. 9, p. 273.*

"It does not appear certain that the ambition of France, will ever then be pointed toward a Russian throne. But considering how little that power has shewn itself capable of effecting for the salvation of Europe—how wretched the state of its subjects is under the present government—how trifling an acquisition of strength the common enemy could expect to obtain from the entire possession of its resources;—we acknowledge that we should contemplate with great composure, any change which might lay the foundation of future improvement, and scatter the forces of France over the dominion of the Czars."—*Vol. 14, p. 460.*

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### *Opinion of Peter the Great*

"He makes a variety of remarks upon the mistaken efforts of Peter, to elevate and polish his subjects; but he does not point

out with sufficient force, the *radical error and absurdity* of these *preposterous* plans of reform, once the theme of such extravagant praise."—*Vol. 14, p. 39.*

How much more enlightened the world has become respecting the brutal and barbarous Russians, and their *absurd and preposterous* Peter, since the Edinburgh Reviewers wrote, and Clarke travelled! And what do the opinions of such men as Voltaire or Thompson weigh, when balanced against that of "great Jeffrey."



*Liberal and enlightened and consistent opinions, respecting America.*

"We have dwelt longer upon this article than its merits justify; not so much for the sake of the work, as for the purpose of stating and exemplifying a most curious and unaccountable fact—the *scarcity of all but mercantile and agricultural talents in the new world.*"—*Vol. 2, p. 354-5.*

"They (the Americans) have never passed the limits of *humble mediocrity* either in thought or expression."\*—*Vol. 15, p. 445.*

Nevertheless, in vol. 2, p. 448, they thus speak of us:—

"The truth is, American genius has displayed itself wherever inducements have been held out for its exertion. Their party pamphlets, though disgraced with much intemperance and scurrility, [how different from the party writings of Great Britain!] are written with a keenness and *spirit, that is not often to be found*

\* How profoundly ignorant was Lord Chatham of the Americans, when he pronounced the following eulogium:

"When your Lordships look at the papers transmitted us from America; when you consider their decency, firmness, and wisdom, you cannot but respect their cause, and wish to make it your own. For myself I must declare and avow, that in all my reading and observation, and it has been my favourite study—I have read Thucydides, and have studied and admired the master states of the world—that for solidity of reasoning, force of sagacity, and wisdom of conclusion, under such a complication of difficult circumstances, no nation or body of men, can stand in preference to the General Congress at Philadelphia."—*Vide Chatham's speech, delivered in the House of Lords, Jan. 20, 1775.*



*in the old world*; and their orators, though occasionally declamatory and turgid, [a fault into which the English, Scotch, and more especially the Irish orators of the present day, such as Curran and Philips, for instance, never fall] frequently possess a vehemence, *correctness* and animation that would command the admiration of any European audience, and excite the *astonishment* of those philosophers, who have been taught to consider the western hemisphere, as a grand receptacle for the degeneracies of nature.”—*Review of Davis’s travels, Vol. 2, p. 448.*

Yet in reviewing a book, written by John Quincy Adams, (his travels in Silesia, we think) they say:

“The style of Mr. Adams, is in *general*, very *tolerable English*, *which for an American composition, is no moderate praise*—A few *national peculiarities*, perhaps we might venture to call them *provincial*, may be detected; but it is upon the whole, remarkably free from those affectations and corruptions of phrase, which overrun the productions of that country—even those in which we should least expect them, the enlightened state papers of the two great Presidents”—[Washington and Adams.]

“If the men of birth and education in that other England, which they are building up in the West, will not diligently study the great authors,\* who purified and fixed the language of our common forefathers, we must soon loose the only badge, that is still worn, of our consanguinity—a spurious dialect, it is probable, will prevail even at the Court, and in the Senate,” &c.

Again:—

“We have often heard it reported, that our transatlantic brethren were beginning to take it amiss, that their language should still be called English. As this is the first specimen that has come to our hands, of any considerable work composed in the American tongue, it may be gratifying to our philological readers, if we

\* From this and several other passages, the Scotch Reviewers seem to suppose that the great British authors, even such of them as Addison, Swift and Robertson, are not read in this country. This—with all due humility we suggest it—is a slight mistake—The writings of those authors are almost as much read and admired in this country as the Edinburgh Review: which is an additional proof, no doubt of our utter want of taste—for compared to these great critics, Addison and Swift are but “mediocre” writers—to borrow a beautiful word from our critics.

There is also another work which they have not recommended to us, and of which perhaps they have never heard, that is much read in this country—a poem, by *one* Lord Byron, called “English Bards and Scotch Reviewers.”

make some remarks upon it. It is distinguished from the original English, by a great number of words which are *radically* and *entirely new*, and as utterly foreign as if they had been adopted from the Hebrew or the Chinese," &c.—*Vol. 15, p. 28.*

"Before closing these hasty and imperfect notices, of the characteristics of this new language, it seems proper to observe, that (if Barlow's authority is to be relied on) it may be known from all other tongues, by an utter disregard of all distinction, between what we should call lofty and elegant, and low and vulgar expressions.

"These Republican literati seem to make it a point of conscience to have no aristocratical distinctions—even in their vocabulary. They think one word just as good another, provided its meaning be as clear; and will know no difference but that of force and perspicuity."—*Vol. 15, p. 29.*

"That the Americans have great and peculiar faults both in their manners and their morality we take to be undeniable."—*Vol. 15, p. 442.*

Nevertheless, in No. 47, page 264, they thus write:

"Why the Americans are disliked in this country, we have never been able to understand; for most certainly they resemble us far more than any other nation in the world. They are brave and boastful, and national and factious like ourselves;—about as *polished* as 99 in 100 of our own countrymen in the upper ranks—and at least as *moral* and *well educated* in the lower. *Their virtues* are such as *we ought to admire*—for they are those on which we value ourselves most highly: and *their very faults* seem to have some claim to *indulgence*, since they are those with which *we are also reproached by third parties*. We see nothing, then, from which we can suppose this prevailing dislike of them to originate, but a secret grudge at them for having asserted, and *manfully* vindicated their independence."

"This, however, is too unworthy a feeling to be avowed; and the very imputation of it should stimulate us to overcome the prejudice by which it is suggested."

This testimony to the morals and manners, and manly character of the Americans might well satisfy us. But in No. 40, page 460, they further testify in our behalf, and vindicate us from the aspersions so unjustly cast upon us by their countrymen: where speaking of the Americans, they say:—



"Their youths of fortune, already travel over all the countries of Europe for their improvement; and specimens are occasionally met with, even in these islands, which, *with all our prejudices*, would do no discredit to the best blood of the land from which they originally sprung. Mr. Weld, indeed, and farmer Parkinson, give a very uninviting picture of their society; but Mr. Talleyrand and the Duc de Liancourt, are by no means so fastidious; *and we cannot help suspecting, that, upon a point of this nature, their opinion is entitled to full as much weight as either of those English authorities.*"

To the *spirit and intelligence* of the Americans, they also bear this further honourable testimony.

"With the *spirit and intelligence*, and the long *habit and practice of liberty* which exists in America, we do not exactly apprehend that they will ever fall into a state of political servitude."—*Vol. 2, p. 477.*

Higher praise could not be bestowed—a more lofty opinion cannot be entertained of Americans, than to believe that their spirit and intelligence will save them from what even Greece and Rome finally fell into.

But lest we should exult too much, we are not only informed that we "*have never passed the limits of humble mediocrity, either in thought or expression*"—But "in short," say they, "federal America has done *nothing* either to *extend, diversify, or embellish* the *sphere of human knowledge.*" "The destruction of her whole literature would not occasion so much regret, as we feel for the loss of a few leaves of an ancient classic."—*Vol. 15, p. 445-6*

That we need not despair, however, the account is again balanced, by the following commendations of American authors, and their works:

Of Franklin they say:—

"There are not many among the thorough-bred scholars and philosophers of Europe who can lay claim to distinction in more than *one or two* departments of science or literature. The uneducated tradesman of America has left writings *that call for our attention*, in natural philosophy—in politics—in political economy—and in general literature and morality"—with much more to the same effect.—*Review of Franklin's works, Vol. 8, p. 331, &c.*

So of Walsh they say:—

“Here is a stout Republican who praises England and declaims against France, with more zeal and *intelligence than any of our own politicians*—Who writes *better, and shews more good learning* than most of our men of letters.”—*Vol. 16, p. 1.*

Still higher praise is bestowed upon that work which is known to be the joint production of Hamilton, Jay, and Madison.—In vol. 12, p. 471, they say—“the best account of this constitution is to be found in a publication called the *Federalist*, written principally by the late general Hamilton;—a work little known in Europe, but which exhibits an *extent and precision* of information; a profundity of research, and an acuteness of understanding, *which would have done honour to the most illustrious statesmen of ancient or modern times.*”

We shall close their opinion of America, by a short extract, or “excerpt,” as they would more elegantly call it, from a speech of Mr. Brougham; one of the great writers in the *Edinburgh Review*, which is of course highly lauded by his colleagues—or *himself*.—In 1812, this oracular statesman and critic thus exclaims—“Jealous of America! whose armies are yet at the plough or making, since your policy has willed it so, awkward, (though improving) attempts at the loom—*whose assembled Navies could not lay siege to an English sloop of war.*”—*No. 39, p. 246.*

The captures of the *Guerriere* and the *Macedonian*—the victories on Lake Erie and Lake Champlain, with some half dozen other Naval victories, furnish the best commentary upon this speech.

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#### *Opinions of Great-Britain.*

We have seen with what candour and consistency they speak of other nations: see now in what manner they speak of their own.



In vol. 16, p. 4, they make this highly becoming admission:

*"We are still the freest, the most moral, most opulent, and most comfortable people of which there is any memorial."*

This very candid and modest avowal reminds one of the avowal, equally candid and modest, of the French Dauphin, recorded in Shakespeare's Henry 5th.

*Orleans.*—'I know him to be valiant.

*Constable.*—'I was told that by one who knows him better than you.

*Orleans.*—'What's he?

*Constable.*—'Marry he told me so himself; and he said he cared not who knew it.'

A difficulty has, however, occurred to us, how it should happen, that "the most moral and the freest people of which there is any memorial" should be guilty of the atrocities ascribed to them by these Reviewers; or should select, or even tolerate such rulers—whose characters are so exquisitely drawn by the same masterly hands—rulers who are compared to the wretches that tyrannize over the piratical States of Barbary—and who it would seem are *fools* as well as *knaves*. That we give no exaggerated account of their representations, may be seen from the following extracts:

"Let us ask, too, if the Bible is universally diffused in Hindostan, what must be the astonishment of the Natives to find that we are forbidden to *rob, murder, and steal*—we, who in fifty years have extended our empire from a few acres about Madrass over the whole peninsula, and sixty millions of people, *and exemplified in our conduct every crime of which human nature is capable*. What matchless impudence to follow up such practice, with such precepts! If we have common prudence, let us keep the gospel at home, and tell them that Machiavel is our prophet, and the God of the Manicheans our God."—*Vol. 14, p. 48.*

"In truth, there never was a period when so favourable an opportunity offered of cultivating the good will of the Barbary powers. There is something peculiarly striking in the similarity between

our rulers and their's. Our vigorous statesmen have a turn for piracy, which would do honour to the privy council of Morocco or Tunis. The admiralty of Salee must view with astonishment and envy the large scale on which its favourite system hath of late been carried into effect by our naval power," &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 314.*

After giving a detail of facts, they proceed:—

"To those who believe that *fools* enjoy the special favour of heaven, there is every *reason* to think that our *Cabinet could not apply in vain.*"

"And as for the difference of Religion, nothing will be easier than to persuade the Moor that our government has rejected the abominations of Christianity,\* by laying before them a history of the pashalick of Ireland, or the correspondence with the Beys of Calcutta and Madrass."

"From a negociation commenced under such happy auspices, by powers so congenial, the happiest result may be expected. The Moor has only to take care that his vessels do not find their way into our ports, and to keep our residents out of his towns, and there is no intimacy of Union, in peace or in war, for which both parties are not fully prepared."—*Vol. 14, p. 314.*

We have seen the opinions of the Scotch Reviewers, upon the great political questions which came before them; as well as upon several nations who have received judgment at their high tribunal, and find them wise, profound and consistent. Let us now advert to their manner of treating some of the most prominent authors whose writings they have reviewed.

### *Judgment of Lord Byron.*

"Lord Byron has clear titles to applause in the spirit and beauty of his diction and versification, and the splendour of many of his descriptions; but it is to his pictures of the stronger passions that

\* No one can believe that the Edinburgh Reviewers have rejected the "abominations of Christianity" who reads their *eulogy* upon the Christian Fathers, &c. &c.



he is indebted for the fulness of his fame. He has delineated with *unequal force and fidelity* the workings of those deep and powerful emotions which alternately enchant and agonize the minds that are exposed to their inroads; and represented, with a *terrible energy*, those struggles, and sufferings, and exaltations by which the spirit is at once torn and transported, and traits of divine inspiration, or demoniacal possession thrown across the tamer features of humanity. It is by this spell chiefly, we think, that he has fixed the admiration of the public; and while other poets delight by their vivacity, or enchant by their sweetness, *he alone* has been able to *command* the sympathy even of reluctant readers, by the natural magic of his moral sublimity, and the terrors and attractions of those overpowering feelings, the deeps and heights of which he seems to have so successfully explored. All the considerable poets of this age, have, indeed, possessed this gift in a greater or *lesser* [less] degree: but there is no man, since the time of Shakespeare himself, in whom it has been made manifest with greater fulness and splendour, than in the noble author before us.”  
—No. 45, p. 108-9.

See now “the moderate castigation” which a few years before they thought proper to give “the minor poet:”

“The poesy of this young Lord belongs to the class which neither Gods nor men are said to permit. Indeed we do not recollect to have seen a quantity of verse with so few deviations, in either direction, from that exact standard. His effusions are spread over a *dead flat*, and can no more get above or below the level, than if there were so much standing water.”—*Review of Lord Byron's poems.*—Vol. 11, p. 265-6.

But this wholesome chastisement is happily balanced by the following eulogium, which they bestow on the noble poet:

“Greece, the mother of freedom and of poetry in the west, which had long employed only the antiquary, the artist and the philologist, was at length destined, after an interval of many silent and inglorious ages, to awaken the genius of a poet, [videlicet, Lord Byron.] Full of enthusiasm for those perfect forms of heroism and liberty, which his imagination had placed in the recesses of antiquity, he gave vent to his impatience of the imperfections of living men and real institutions in an original strain of *sublime satire*, which clothes moral anger in imagery of an almost horrid

grandeur; and which, though it cannot coincide with the estimate of reason, yet could only flow from that worship of perfection which is the soul of all true poetry.—*No. 43, p. 37.*

We think that his most sublime satire, is his English Bards and Scotch Reviewers, which (strange to tell) these great critics never noticed, notwithstanding the author was a Nobleman; which, it seems, is with them an important consideration; for they say, in reviewing his first work, "it is this consideration only, that induces us to give Lord Byron's Poems a place in our Review; besides our desire to counsel him, that he do forthwith abandon Poetry."

What a pity that Lord Byron had not listened to their sage counsel! what failures and disgraces would it not have saved him!—But to resume the admonitions of our Reviewers:

"With this view, we must beg leave to assure him, that the mere rhyming of the final syllable, even when accompanied with the presence of a certain number of feet; nay, although (which does not always happen) these feet should scan regularly, and have been all counted accurately upon the fingers—is not the whole art of Poetry. We would entreat him to believe that a certain portion of *liveliness*, somewhat of fancy, is necessary to constitute a poem; and that a poem, in the present day, to be read, must contain at least one thought either in a little degree different from the ideas of former writers, or differently expressed."—*Vol. 11, p. 265-6.*

We will close the extracts which we have made from their opinions of Lord Byron, and which might easily be multiplied, with the following exhortation, somewhat different, it must be confessed, from the last:—

"We hope he is not in earnest in meditating even a temporary divorce from his Muse—and would humbly suggest to him to do away the reproach of the age, by producing a tragic drama of the old English school of poetry and of pathos. He has all the air we think of being the knight for whom the accomplishment of that great adventure is reserved."—*No. 45, p. 229.*



*Judgment of Southey.*

In the review of the *curse of Kehama*, it is thus written:—

“We admire the *genius* of Mr. Southey; we reverence the *lofty principles*, and we love the tenderness of heart, that are visible in *all his works*.”—*Vol —, p. 429.*

In the review of *Madoc*, it is also said:

“Mr. Southey we think has *great talents* for poetry, and more learning and industry than commonly fall to the lot of those who devote themselves to the service of the Muses.”—*Vol. 7, p. 1.*

All this, and much more to the same effect, was said of Mr. Southey before he wrote his *Roderick*, unquestionably the best by far of all his poems.

Now hear the following terrible sentence of condemnation which Mr. Southey incurred for his disrespect of their awful tribunal—Hear it and tremble, ye presumptuous and hardened few who dare to question the infallibility of Scotch critics:—

“For *Genius* and *Poetry*, we really do not know how to name their names in the face of such a strange farrago of *bad psalmody*, and *stupid newspapers*—of such *base* imitation of Sternhold, and the *Daily Advertiser*, as now lies before us”—*Review of Southey's Carmen Triumphale, No. 44, p. 448.*

Again:—

“We have said that instead of kindling with his mighty theme to a true lyrical sublimity and rapture, he has handled it in the trite and creeping style of a dull daily newspaper—and we appeal to any competent judge of these matters whether he would ever have suspected that a *Poet* had got in among that meritorious race of Journalists, if the dullest of them had taken a review of the Spanish war in such a sentence as the following.”—*No. 44, p. 449.*

This tremendous judgment was pronounced upon Southey, after he had, they say, called them—O the irreverent age!--“*Asses*,” and had “intended to make them very angry, and very ridiculous.” In the former of which objects, they assure us that he failed as egre-

giously as he did in his Poem; and as to the latter, it was indeed a vain attempt! And we should require no other or better evidence of the decay of Mr. Southey's once powerful talents, than his engaging in so fruitless an undertaking. We assure these great critics, that after so convincing a proof, they need assign no reasons to persuade us of his "marvellous falling off;" though we think the one they have assigned, that "the Laurel possesses the quality of rendering the head that wears it impervious to the subtle fluid in which poetical inspiration consists," truly ingenious and philosophical.

If any, after this, should think there is a contradiction or inconsistency in the above opinions, all that we shall say, is, that they are very much mistaken:—for that a man should at one time possess great poetical talents, and by and by become a mere dolt and driveller, is not so very strange as some may suppose—for Pope assures us of what is still more strange, that

"Some have for wits at first, then poets passed,  
"Turned critics next, and proved plain fools at last."

### *Judgment upon Madame de Stael.*

In their review of Madame de Stael's *Delphine*, these infallible critics thus write:—

"This *dismal trash* which has nearly dislocated the jaws of every critic among us *with gaping*, has so alarmed Bonaparte, that he has seized the whole impression, sent Madame de Stael out of Paris, and, for ought we know, sleeps in a night-cap of steel, and dagger proof blankets."

"To us it appears rather an attack against the ten commandments, than the government of Bonaparte, and calculated not so much to enforce the rights of the Bourbons, as the benefits of Adultery, Murder, and a number of other vices, which have been somehow or other strangely neglected in this country, and too much so according to the apparent opinions of Madame de Stael) even in France. It happens, however, that her book is as *dull* as it could have been, if her intentions had been good."—*Vol. 2, p. 172.*



“To conclude, our general opinion of this book is, that it is calculated to shed a mild lustre over Adultery;—by gentle and convenient gradations to destroy the modesty and caution of women; to facilitate the acquisition of easy vices, and encumber the difficulty of virtue. What a wretched qualification of this censure to add, that the badness of the principles are *alone corrected* by the *badness of the style*, and that this *celebrated lady would have been very guilty, if she had not been very dull.*—Vol. 2, p. 177.

This, it must be owned, is severe; and affords a striking illustration of the strength of that satire, which—notwithstanding their native urbanity—they sometimes employ. See now in what flattering terms they can—when they choose—speak of this lady.—In reviewing her work on Literature, written before her *Delphine*, and as they say, brought “into notice by the happier fortune of the Novels with which its distinguished author has condescended to favour this frivolous generation; and which,” they add, “we should be apt to suspect the ingenious frequenters of Circulating Libraries, and the lively enquiries after new books *in duodecimo*, will find very dull in comparison of their native favourites—and that the bolder among them already venture to insinuate that the author of *Delphine* and *Corinne*, is falling fast into dotage,” &c.—They proceed: “We look upon her as *beyond all comparison*, the first female writer of her age,” &c. &c.—No. 41, p. 2.

“When we say that Madame de Stael is decidedly the most eminent Literary female of her age, we do not mean to deny that there may be others whose writings are of more direct and indisputable utility—who are distinguished by greater justness and sobriety of thinking, and may pretend to have conferred more practical benefits on the existing generation. But it is impossible, we think, to deny that she has pursued a more lofty, as well as a more dangerous career:—that she has treated of subjects of far greater difficulty, and far more extensive interest; and even in her failures, has frequently given indications of greater powers than have sufficed for the success of her more prudent contemporaries.” No. 41, p. 2.

They have much more to the same effect in reviewing her different works, They now also—recollecting,

no doubt, the politeness that is due to a lady—relax somewhat of their former severity upon her Novels, which they condescend to praise in the following handsome terms:

“Her Novels bear testimony to the extraordinary accuracy and minuteness of her observation upon human character, and to her thorough knowledge of those dark and secret workings of the heart by which misery is so often elaborated from the pure elements of the affections.”—*No. 41, p. 3.*

### *Judgment upon Moore.*

In *No. 43, p. 37--8* our Reviewers speak of Moore in the following lofty strain:—

“While the Scotch middle age inspired the most popular Poet, perhaps, of the 18th century, the national genius of Ireland at length found a poetical representative, whose exquisite ear and flexible fancy, wantoned in all the varieties of poetical luxury, from the levities to the fondness of love, from polished pleasantry, to ardent passion, from the social joys of private life to a tender and mournful patriotism, taught by the melancholy fortunes of an illustrious country; with a range adapted to every nerve in the composition of a people susceptible of all feelings which have the colour of generosity, and more exempt probably than any other from degrading and unpoetical vices.”

Mark now, gentle reader, the exemplary justice with which these Reviewers treat this self-same Anacreon Moore, when it seemeth meet to them to be just, rather than generous:

“We consider his book, indeed, as a public nuisance, and would willingly trample it down by one short movement of contempt and indignation.—*Moore's Poems, Vol. 8, p. 456.*

“On looking back to the volume with a view to estimate its poetical merits, impartially as separated from its sins of morality, we are surprised to find *how little praise it can lay claim to*; and are more and more convinced that its popularity is owing almost entirely to the seduction of the subjects on which it is employed



—We shall not stain our page with any of the passages to which the preceding censures are intended to apply.” They then accuse him,

1. Of writing “nonsense.”
2. Of writing “unintelligibly.”
3. Of “having adopted ideas equally remote from common sense and from truth.”
4. Of “insanity.”
5. Of “childishness.”
6. Of “want of judgment.”—*p.* 470.
7. Of “being unnatural.”—*p.* 473.
8. Of “insipidity”—*Vol.* 8, *p.* 473.
9. Of being “effeminate and childish.”—474.
10. Of being a poet, fit only for the bagnio—*p.* 476—and much more to the same effect, as may be seen by referring to their review of Moore’s Poems, and translation of Anacreon. Speaking of the former, they say—“By this change of title we conclude Mr. Moore means to intimate that he has now attained that maturity of genius which may enable him to meet the decision of the public in his own person; and that he will not hereafter plead *insignificance* in mitigation of his offences, or seek shelter in obscurity from the punishment which morality and criticism must concur in awarding to the peculiar vein of inspiration by which he is distinguished”—*Vol.* 2, *p.* 462-3. They close their review by expressing a wish to see the publication “consigned to universal reprobation.”—*Vol.* 8, *p.* 465.

In closing our extracts from the review of Moore’s Poems, we must be allowed—semi-barbarians though he deems us—to express our regret that any difference should ever have existed between him and the great “Alpha” of the Edinburgh Review: for we think them kindred spirits: equal in honour, equal also, and who can be superior, in candour and truth.

This country has been honoured with a visit from both, and has experienced from each of them similar returns of gratitude for the hospitality they received.\*

\* See Moore’s Epistles, and Jeffrey’s Journal. The latter is thought by some to be a spurious production: the reason they assign is—*it is so paltry*. But as it has circulated so long with Mr Jeffrey’s name, and never been disowned by him, we have the same authority for considering it genuine as we have for considering the other work circulated as Moore’s genuine.—If it is a forgery it was undoubtedly Mr. Jeffrey’s duty to expose the forgery, and not suffer a LIBEL to receive the sanction of his name.

But we have other reasons for believing it genuine: we have good authority for saying it is written in the same spirit which he indulged in his oral remarks while in this country. We may therefore justly exclaim “*par nobile fratrum*.”

And not Lord Byron himself, who has celebrated in immortal verse, their

——“Ever glorious almost fatal fray,”

could more lament than we that such fury should have found a place in heavenly minds. For had not “the lead in their pistols evaporated,” what a loss might not the world have sustained!

### *Opinions of Wordsworth.*

“Nobody can be more disposed to do justice to the *great powers* of Mr. Wordsworth, than we are; and from the first time that he came before us, down to the present moment, we have *uniformly* testified in their favour.”—*No. 47, p. 29.*

Gentle reader, this is that Wordsworth who “is known to belong to a certain brotherhood of Poets who have haunted for some years about the lakes of Cumberland”—*vol. 11, p. 214*—Some of whose poetry “is silly sooth,” and some “downright raving”—*ditto, p. 220*—the author of “the story of Alice Fell and her duffle cloak”—of “Andrew Jones and the half crown,”—of “Little Dan without breeches, and his thievish Grandfather,”—which we are told that the powerful mind of Burns would have perused with so much contempt: and whose “fantastical personages of hysterical Schoolmasters, and sententious leech-gatherers,” we are desired to “contrast with the authentic Rustics of Burns’ Cotters’ Saturday night, and his inimitable songs.”—*Vol. 13, p. 276.*—Of his Leech-gatherer, the Reviewers thus speak:—

“We defy the bitterest enemy of Mr. Wordsworth, to produce any thing at all, parallel to this, from any collection of English Poetry.”

But to return to our Reviewers, one inference cannot fail to occur to every person who reads these extracts—



the vast importance of the praise or censure of critics so remarkable for candour and *consistency*.

Were we not apprehensive of fatiguing our readers, we could easily multiply examples to prove—what they must now think mere supererogation—the candour and impartiality, the consistency and correctness of our Scotch critics.

In casting our eyes over their work, we were particularly struck with their judgments upon several men, whose characters we ignorantly supposed settled in history: But they have had the kindness to correct the absurd opinions which the world has heretofore entertained.

Upon the character of MONTESQUIEU, they thus decide:—

“An author who frequently *appears profound*, when he is only *paradoxical*, and seems to have studied with great success the art of *hiding* a desultory and *fantastical style of reasoning*, in imposing aphorisms, and epigrams of considerable effect.”—*Vol. 15, p. 464.*

How stupidly ignorant was Edmund Burke, of the genius and character of Montesquieu, when he wrote the following lofty eulogium:—

“Place, for instance, before your eyes, such a man as Montesquieu. *Think of a genius not born in every country, or every time; a man gifted by nature with a penetrating aquiline eye; with a judgment prepared with the most extensive erudition; with a herculean robustness of mind, and nerves not to be broken with labour; a man who could spend twenty years in one pursuit. Think of a man like the universal patriarch in Milton, (who had drawn up before him in prophetic vision the whole series of generations which were to issue from his loins,) a man capable of placing in review after having brought together, from the east, the west, the north, and the south; from the coarseness of the rudest barbarism, to the most refined and subtle civilization, all the schemes of government which had ever prevailed amongst mankind, weighing, measuring, collating, and comparing them all, joining fact with theory, and calling into council, upon all this infinite assemblage of things, all the speculations which have fatigued the understanding of profound reasoners, in all times.*”—*Appeal from the new to the old Whigs, Burke's works, vol. 3, p. 426.*

And what a paltry judge of characters, was this same Burke, who, in his speech on the trial of Hastings, could break out into the following rant about Lord Bacon—"Whose name to mention is to speak of *every thing in science the most profound*, whose least distinction was that he was Lord Chancellor of England, and the son of a Peer," &c. Hear now the wise men of the north, and learn to estimate more correctly the boasted science of Lord Bacon.

"This last volume"—say they, in reviewing a work of Sir John Sinclair, "is dedicated to British authors, who have treated of health and longevity, and is chiefly occupied with a republication of *Lord Bacon's most insane and credulous quackeries*."—*Vol. 11, p. 213.*

Of the famous Sir *Thomas Moore*, the pride and boast of his age, and whom Englishmen have, one and all, delighted to honor—whom Thompson eulogized in poetry, and Addison in prose, our Scotch oracles thus respectfully speak:—

"But with the exception of the life of *Picus Mirandula* a youthful production, and the history of *Richard the 3d*, the genuineness of which, is somewhat doubtful; this enormous volume contains scarcely any thing but the *acrimonious* invective of Religious controversy, or the doctrinal drivelling of superstition."—*Memoirs, &c. of Sir Thomas Moore, vol. 14, p. 266.*

No one will accuse our Reviewers of superstition, who reads their work with common attention.

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*That Lucretius is superior to Virgil.*

Of the poem of Lucretius, they say:—

"It is full of genius; and contains more poetry, we are inclined to think, than any other production of the Latin Muse.—With less skill—less uniform propriety—and less sustained dignity than Virgil, it has always appeared to us, that he had more natural



genius and original spirit; that his diction in his happier passages, was sweeter and more impressive; and all the movements of his mind, more free, simple, and energetic."—*Vol. 10, p. 222.*

Who would think that this is the poem to which one of the writers of the *Spectator*, Addison we believe, has given Sir Richard Blackmore's poem on the Creation, the preference. But why do I mention the opinion of Addison, in competition with our Scotch critics.—Addison "was famous in his time,"\* but he was not a Jeffrey, or a Lamb.

—♦—

*Opinions upon subjects of Criticism.*

Both the style of Dr. Robertson, and that of his Biographer would have been improved by a little *negligence*, even a little *roughness* and occasional hastiness of expression; by now and then displaying those careless efforts of strength, which mark the strength of a master genius, and live and thrive, disclosing a brave neglect, which would alarm an ordinary mind."—*Vol. 2, p. 246, Stewart's account of Dr. Robertson*

They had previously, in their review of Hayley's Life of Cowper, stoutly combatted the same sentiment, when expressed by Cowper. They observe, it is impossible to say any thing of Cowper's writings, without taking notice of the *occasional harshness*, and inelegance of his versification. From his correspondence, however, it would appear, that this was not with him the effect of negligence merely, but that he really imagined that a *rough* and incorrect line *now* and *then*, had a very agreeable effect in a composition of any length. This prejudice, we believe, is as old as Cowley, among English writers; but we do not know that it has of late received the sanction of any poet of eminence. In truth

\*"The Dean was famous in his time,

"And had a kind of knack at rhyme," &c. &c. &c.

*Verses on the death of Dr. Swift.*

it does not appear to us, to be at all capable of defence. It must afford the same gratification, we should imagine, to have *one of the buttons on a coat, a little larger than the rest*, or one or two of the “pillars in a colonade, a little out of the perpendicular. If variety is wanted, let it be variety of excellence, and not a relief of imperfections. It can afford no pleasure, we imagine, to a reviewing General, to see a miserable, rickety, and distorted creature, staggering along in uniform, amidst the tall and stately battalions that march past, in splendid regularity before him.”—*Vol 2, p. 83.*

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*Specimens of fine writing.*

We shall now, by a few extracts, shew their unquestionable title, to the office which they have assumed, of the arbiters of taste, and the true purifiers and refiners of the English language. In order to do justice to these great critics, we have selected some of the choicest specimens of fine writing, to be found in their works; but we would not be understood to say, that we have selected all or the tenth part.—Similar examples might easily be multiplied to a much greater number, than our readers would find patience to peruse.

Let any one, who wishes to see a union of grace, elegance and correctness, read the following exquisite sentences:—

“*We dare to say, Sir John Sinclair could have told it him*”—*Vol. 7, p. 35.*

“*The Leather made in America is bad, though tanning is reckoned profitable; but people make rich by importing Leather from England.*”—*Vol. 7, p. 35.*

“*He begins observing, that the right of interfering in the affairs of any foreign state.*”—*Vol. 9, p. 262.*

“*When in addition to these dangers, we reflect also upon those with which our national happiness is menaced, by the present*



thinness of ladies petticoats, temerity may *hope our salvation*, but how can reason promise it."—*Vol. 1, p. 97.*

The last sentence is not less remarkable for refinement of wit, then refinement of style.

"For the first ten days the labour was tolerable, and his progress *fully more rapid* than he had expected."—*Vol. 1, p. 151.*

———"In short, to be *fully more likely* to beat their wives and cheat their benefactors, than any other set of persons.—*No. 40, p. 256.*

"The imitation of the diction and measure, we think, is nearly *almost perfect.*—*No. 40, p. 440.*

"They *bear to be* memoirs of a Princess of Prussia, written by herself."—*No. 40, p. 257.*

"In modern nations, more particularly in England, the state of public credit, *the operations of budget*, the means of supplying the armies, the effect of different systems adopted in war and peace, are all of the highest importance."—*Review of Adolphus's history of England, in vol. 9, p. 17.*

How classical and elegant is the following phrase—"Open up an intercourse with the country." So again in page 18, we have "*to open up an interview*, so obviously beneficial to both countries"—"May teach him some lessons, and *open up to him* some views," &c.—*No. 40, p. 257.*

"We differ *with him*, in every one sentiment, which he proposes on this grave subject," &c.—*Vol. 9, p. 425.*

It was heretofore supposed, that we might differ *from* a person in sentiment, or agree *with* him; but we are now informed, that we may *differ with* a person, or agree with him at our option.

With what ease and elegance do the following sentences move:—

"The natural operation of such an institution, is so diametrically opposite to, and incompatible with, the strongest principles of our nature."—*Vol. 4, p. 316.*

———"though that class is very different *from* and inferior to the other."—*No.* 48, *p.* 325.

"The evil of such discussions is, that they are apt to leave an impression on the mind, that the obligations of duty rest on something different *from*, and independent *of*, the will of God."—*Vol.* 17, *p.* 472.

This separation of the preposition, from the noun which it governs, is a manifest beauty, and ought always to be adopted when practicable. It is one of those minor graces—those finishing touches, which mark the man of taste, and the fine scholar.

"The inhabitants amount to 1400, and when the abundance of food, and mildness of climate are considered, their residence *cannot date* from a remote period."—*Asiatic Researches*, *p.* 28-9.

"The popular antipathies have been pointed *of new*, [of late] exclusively against France."—*Vol.* 14, *p.* 481.

"No ordinary *shares* of genius and taste, may be allowed to Warton."—*Vol.* 2, *p.* 256.

"There are few literary men in Scotland who do not *come to regret* that *unclassical* [unclassick] negligence, which almost excludes Greek literature from our present system of education."—*Vol.* 1, *p.* 94.

"If Mr. Lewis is really in earnest, in pointing out the coincidences between his own dramatic sentiments, and the gospel of St. Matthew, such a reference (wide as we know the assertion to be) *evinces a want of judgment, of which we did not think him capable.*"—*Vol.* 1, *p.* 316.

Capable of a want of judgment!—how correct and beautiful!

"The same process is very often repeated, especially at Paris and Constantinople, and in no part of the route more frequently than in the unexplored country of Hungary, and the military *frontiers of the two Emperors.*"—*Vol.* 4, *p.* 213.

An ordinary writer would have said, the military frontiers of the two empires..



"In the year 1595, to omit *lesser particulars*, the next three books of the Fairy Queen made their appearance.—*Vol. 7, p. 210.*

It is true that Dr. Johnson, censured the use of lesser as "a corruption of less;" but no one can place the authority of Dr. Johnson, in competition with those "northern lights," the Scotch Reviewers, who use it constantly. The Doctor's prejudice against the Scotch ought, we think, alone, to destroy all respect for his judgment upon any subject. We have no doubt, that were he now alive, he would have the hardihood to growl at our great critics themselves.

What admirer of that beautiful figure of speech, called TAUTOLOGY, can fail to be delighted with the following exquisite example of it:—

"Hassan comes in profound *silence*, with a *sileat* band, bearing *gently* among them, a *silent* and heavy burden in a white sheet.—They row out in a *still* golden evening from the rocky shore, and *silently* slip their burden into the water."—*No. 42, p. 302.*

Any one who wishes to see an example of the most happy obscurity, will do well to read the following sentence:—

"The remarks made above apply to those subsidiary obligations entered into by nations, not strictly concerned in the stipulations, in which the acceding parties *guarantee* [guaranty] the treaty or bargain to support the party *implementing* against all infractions by the other. These are generally modified by the disposition of all parties at the time of the requisition to *fulfil being made*, to the parties guarantees."—*Vol. 1, p. 369.*

What a happy union of obscurity and false grammar is here! This is an admirable specimen of the true profound, so strongly recommended by Martinus Scriblerus, who sagely observes—"The expression must not always be too clear, for fear of becoming vulgar; for obscurity bestows a cast of the wonderful, and throws an oracular dignity upon a piece that has no meaning."

The above sentence is indeed so ORACULAR, that we read it over three several times, before we could even guess at the meaning. Nor are we at all certain, that we have yet fathomed it. We should, however, conjecture, that the pronoun "THESE" at the beginning of the second sentence, is intended to refer to "subsidiary obligations" in the first part of the preceding sentence: though in grammatical strictness, it refers to infractions. We may be mistaken however, in our supposition. "These" may be meant to refer to "nations," or "stipulations," or "parties," to either of which it may just as well refer as to "subsidiary obligations."

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*The Polite or Elevated Style.*

We will now give some examples of what may properly be termed, the polite or elevated style:—

"It is common to speak of the *balderdash* which men must talk at public meetings."—*No. 40, p. 419.*

"Yet, we not only feel neither respect nor affection for Diderot—but can seldom read any of his lighter pieces, without a certain degree of disgust. There is a tone of *blackguardism*," &c. &c.—*No. 42, p. 283.*

———"they all of a sudden, began to feel themselves great commanders, because the pompous Spanish *functionaries*, their equals, perhaps their inferiors, conferred an unmeaning rank on them—and to fancy themselves *transmogrified* into diplomatic characters."—*Vol. 15, p. 392.*

"But our author is not *Frenchified*, upon points of gallantry alone."—*Vol. 8. p. 416.*

Again:—

"The story is that of a wise, virtuous, well-bred English husband, who is seduced from the most amiable wife in the world by the arts of a *Frenchified* coquet."—*Vol. 8. p. 207.*



"This attempt was successful, and he set out with the family as usual, in the capacity of what is vulgarly termed a *fac-totum*," &c.—*Vol. 8, p. 354.*

———"but as he has thought fit to *stir the question*."—*Vol. 16, p. 186.*

———"wherever, *the question is stirred*, as to whose claims shall be renounced."—*No. 41, p. 13.*

"So very little could be gained by the fullest exercise of those rights, that it is impossible sufficiently to regret the *stirring of the question*."—*Vol. 14, p. 466.*

The beauty and delicacy of this phraseology was so pleasantly pointed out by Addison in the *Spectator*, that we are glad to see our Reviewers sanction it by their higher authority.

"The natives for a long time did not at all comprehend the meaning of his 'insults,' as they termed it, and could not imagine how any one could be so *stingy*, as to prevent them from 'taking a few peaches and apples in a friendly way.'"—*Vol. 7, p. 37.*

"The language of passion, indeed, can scarcely be deficient in elevation; and when an author is *awanting* in that particular, he may commonly be presumed to have failed in the truth, as well as in the dignity of his expression."—*Review of Southey's Thalaba, Vol. 1.*

We also greatly admire the following polite phraseology:—

"*God send* that our wishes be not in vain."—*Vol. 11, p. 362.*

As also that of the three following sentences:—

———"Surely scholars and gentlemen can drink tea and eat bread and butter together, without all this *laudatory cackling*" —*Vol. 14, p. 358.*

"We were highly amused with this proof *ab ebris sutoribus*, of the prostration of Europe, the last hour of human felicity, the perdition of man, discovered in the *crapulous eructations* of a drunken cobbler."—*Vol. 1, p. 97.*

———“We are quite determined, if we can prevent such an evil, that it [Religion] shall not be eaten up by the *nasty* and numerous *vermin* of Methodism.”—*Vol. 14, p. 40.*

From the foregoing sentences it may be seen what peculiar elevation and refinement a single word will sometimes give to a sentence.

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### *Wit and Satire.*

We will now give a few examples of genuine Attic wit, and *refined courtly* satire.

“But our author gets warm and *cackling*; and when he has *laid* his little truism, makes such an intolerable riot, that we might suppose he had produced a *diamond* instead of an *egg*.”—*Vol. 16, p. 181.*

“But it is not merely against the doctrines, or the indescribable stuff in the name of doctrines, afforded by the Grecian sages, that the German *hog*, makes the disagreeable noise which it is natural to *beasts* of his species to make, when annoyed by any thing offensive. He *squeaks*, which is louder than *grunting*, against their lives.”—*Vol. 14, p. 195.*

How polished and refined is the satire in the following sentence—We take this—if Republicans like us may be allowed to have an opinion upon such a subject—to be the *true courtly* style; and as such recommend it to those of our countrymen, who, (agreeably to the advice given them by the Scotch Reviewers) are desirous of cultivating “a certain fastidiousness of taste.”

———“but Mr. Styles should remember, that it is not the practice with the destroyers of *vermin*, to allow the little victims, a *veto* upon the weapons used against them. If it were otherwise, we should have *one set of vermin banishing small tooth-combs*;” another, &c.—*a third protesting against the finger and thumb*; and a fourth, exclaiming against the intolerable infamy of using soap and water. It is impossible however to listen to such pleas. They must all be *caught, killed, and cracked*, in the manner and by the instruments which are found most efficacious for their destruction,” &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 41.*



Since copying the last paragraph, we have thought that we might perhaps be mistaken—illiterate plebeians as we are—and that this is not the *true* courtly style; but that these illustrious Reviewers, intentionally adopted the language and manner of the “consecrated cobblers,” whose “nest,” they say, they have been “routing-out:” and like Congreve’s critics, meant to “shew us what is bad, by what they write.”\* But however it may be as to the last, no one can doubt, that the following is an admirable specimen of pure attic salt:—

“Whoever has had the good fortune to see Dr. Parr’s wig, must have observed that while it trespasses a little on the orthodox magnitude of Perukes in the anterior parts, it scorns even episcopal limits behind, and swells out into a boundless convexity of *Frizz*,” &c.—the *νεγὰ θάυμα* of Barbers, and the terror of the literary world.”—*Parr’s spital sermon*, vol 1, p. 18.

How pure and unaffected is the wit, as well as the language of the following sentence, in which they thus respectfully speak of the Clergy generally:—

——— “Of the propriety of the last epithet, our readers may perhaps be more convinced, by calling to mind, a class of *fops*, not usually designated by that epithet—men clothed in profound black, with large canes, and strange *amorphous* hats—of big speech and imperative presence—talkers about Plato—great affecters of *senility*—despisers of women, and all the graces of life—fierce foes to common sense—abusive of the living, and approving no one that has not been dead for at least a century.”—*Review of Rennel’s sermons*, vol. 1, p. 89.

Mark now what an unaffected and witty way they have of saying, that a man was hanged:—

“Mr. Dominic afterwards *exhibited* on that instrument of destruction, [videlicet, the gallows] to which all wicked *priests* should be exalted.”—*Vol. 5*, p. 160.

\* ‘Rules for good writing, they with pains indite,  
‘Then shew us what is bad—by what they write.’—

Said Congreve, of the great critics of his time.

Who that is a lover of that beautiful simplicity, which is the perfection of taste, can fail to admire the following sentences:—

“They are filled with horror and compassion at the sight of poor men spending their blood in the quarrels of Princes, and *brutifying their sublime capabilities* in the druggery of unremitting labour.”—*Vol. 1, p. 71.*

“We do not recollect many scenes in comedy, more *piquant* than the manual performance of a certain departed Statesman, snatching a *convictory* piece of his own orthography, from the hands of the astonished historian; while the staid and solemn grandeur of the premier, affords a fine contrast to the light-fingered agility of his brother.”—*Vol. 5, p. 152.*

What a happy union of pure humor and pure English!

We cite the following, as another admirable specimen of polite, elevated, and refined humor:—

“What then are the “magnanimous” persons, whose heroic self-devotion, *every throat in this country, has been roaring so loudly about?* Why the plain fact reduces itself to this—Bonaparte sends an army to dethrone, probably to imprison or kill the prince; and he having tried his utmost endeavours to make his peace, finds the army still advancing. He therefore, as all Princes do in such situations, when they have not the rare disposition to die in the last ditch, *packs up his awls overnight*, and with his courtiers and favourites, and a proper assortment of monks and nuns *runs-away.*”—*Vol. 12, p. 255.*

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### *Grammatical Errors.*

The great Martinus Scriblerus, in that far-famed treatise “*peri-Bathous*, or art of sinking,” gives this admirable advice—“The expression must not always be grammatical, lest it appear pedantic and ungentlemanly:” for example, sometimes use the wrong number; “The sword and pestilence at once devours, instead of devour,”



&c. With what marvellous felicity, our learned Reviewers have followed this council, will appear by a few extracts:—

As where, like the example above given, they use the wrong number. ‘After his death, his name and character is the property of the public.’—*Vol. 2, p. 237.*

‘Though Spencer was much later than Chaucer, his obligation to preceding poets were less.’—*No. 49, p. 59.*

Or, as in the following sentence:—

“Accordingly, instead of suing for a smile, or melting in a tear, his muse deals in nothing but locked embraces, and midnight encounters; and even in his complimentary effusions to ladies of the highest rank, is for straining *them* to the bosom of *her* [instead of their] impetuous votary.”—*Review of the Reliques of Burns, vol. 13, p. 252.*

So where they use the wrong tense:—

“We do not aver, that in general, these additions to his works tend to augment his fame; on the contrary, some of them *have been written* [for were written] almost during infancy,” &c.—*Vol. 4, p. 16.*

So where they use the participle for the verb, as in the following graceful and unaffected sentence:—

“Macpherson, with powers infinitely inferior to those of Chatterton, had the advantage of an intimate acquaintance with celtic poetry, much of which he probably *interweaved* [instead of interwove] with his own imitations.”—*Vol. 4, p. 7.*

So they sometimes use the verb for the noun: as for instance: ‘He procured a copy of Ariosto, from a voracious school-fellow, by giving up to him his share of the chickens which formed the Sunday *regale*’—instead of regalement.—*Vol. 15, p. 277.* Or they use the verb for the adjective: as—

“In Mr. Mant’s *circumstantiate* details”—instead of *circumstantial* details, which would have been grammatical and pedantic.—*See vol. 2, p. 255.*

They also use a verb *active* as if it was a verb *neuter*: as for example—

“When full light is let in upon this point, the darkness in which the history of society throughout Asia, has so long been involved begins to *dispel*.”—*Vol* 15, p. 363.

Or least they should appear “pedantic and ungentlemanly;” they sometimes use a foreign idiom; as for instance the following gallicisms:

“In the first place, the Prince’s sister Charlotte falls in love with the bridegroom, *and does her possible* to seduce him.”—*No.* 40, p. 268.

“We do not think that there is a great hazard of their attempting either to assert those principles, or to assume the tone by which they [the nobles of France] formerly *revolted the inferior classes of the state*.”—*No* 45, p. 17.

So to avoid the pedantry of writing pure English, they use the word “demised,” for died—As when they say—“of the deaths and characters of all the eminent persons who *demised* in the period to which it extends.”—*No.* 40, p. 265.

Or the pure Scoticism of shall for will, and will for shall—would for should and should for would: as for instance—

———“that they *shall* most assuredly be bitterly deceived, who expect to find in this new kingdom, any compensation for the losses which we are daily suffering,” &c.—*Vol.* 12, p. 261.

“*We will* not be readily suspected of holding out either of these systems as a pattern for our own imitation.”—*Vol.* 16, p. 4.

“We content ourselves with lamenting, that any reason should have occurred to deprive us of the satisfaction which we *would* have received in seeing a new life of Chatterton, with the Rowley controversy,”\* &c.—*Vol.* 4, p. 418.

\* These sentences remind us of the anecdote of the Scotchman, who on his passage in an English vessel, having fallen overboard, called out, “I *will* drown; no body *shall* help me.”—The English sailors never having, we suppose, read the Edinburgh Reviews, and not understanding the Scoticisms, which they have so happily introduced into the *English* language, answered—“if you *will* drown, you may and be d—d:”—and left the poor Scotchman to his fate.



Or they will use new words of their own, never before heard of, in the place of those that are known and acknowledged; as in the following sentences:—

“I rather pitied, than envied him, when I saw him at ferrara in so piteous a plight, that he survived himself, *misacknowledging* both himself and his labours, which *unwitting* [unwittingly] to him, and even to his face. have been published both uncorrected and maimed.”—*No. 49, p. 51.*

Again:—

———“possessed as the *federacy*, [confederacy] now is of Louisiana.—*Vol. 4, p. 55.*

Or “superlunary,” for superlunar, as “superlunary claims.”—*Vol. 14, p. 146.*

And “ambidexterous” instead of ambidextrous.—*No. 40, p. 59.*

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### *New and Foreign Words.*

We might cite many similar examples, did they not more properly come under the next division of our remarks, in which we shall shew that they have greatly enriched the English language—so proverbially barren—as well by the introduction of a vast number of words from the French, the Italian and the Latin languages, as also, by coining themselves a goodly number. We have hastily made the following collection, which might be easily augmented, from their work.—Transmogri-fied, frenchified, amorphous, awanting, unwitting, imperturbability, mimetic, metaphoroclastic, misacknowledging, jeremiade, encyclopedical, antithetical, dynamical, insubmergible, goddery, coxcombry, hyperbolized, invalidated, frugivorous, idolions, incandescently, desult-riness, dupery, diabolism, babyism, prettyism, blackardism, royalism, philosophism, antiquarianism, cosmopolitanism, hypochondriasm, colloquialisms, convictory, convergence, campaigned, subsumed, superlu-

nary, ambidexterous, survival, insanify, homeless, frizz, federacy, implementing, replacement, harrassment, prat-tlement, pervasive, lacrymose, byographics, excerpts, nidus, patina, dogmata, eulogomania, ana, anas, anile, senility, drill-sergeantry, peoples, pittering.

Cadastre, cortege, critique, critiques, unique, eloge, prestiges, commis, comptoir, cadastre, mediocre, souplesse, etouderie, projects, princepautés, particularités, niaseries, mauvaise-honte, doceurs, debut, diatribe, tirades, restaurateur, faste, triste, foiblesse, galas, tact, cotorie, congé, sombre, liasons, chemise, gourmand, ennuyé, ennui'd, enjoué, roturier, recherché, trouveurs, arrondissements, déchirant, bourgeois, savans, savants, morceaux, exigeante, devote, en spectacle, recettes exterieurs; conversazione, cognocenza, ciceroni, dilettante, fasciculi.

Verily, the learned achievements of the renowned Hudibrass, never surpassed those of our Scotch Reviewers; though of him it is recorded, that

“He could coin or counterfeit  
 “New words, with little or no wit,  
 “Words so debased and hard, no stone  
 “Was hard enough to touch them on.”

We will now, for the benefit of our readers, cite those pure and classick passages (where we have not before had occasion to quote them) in which the above words are found, that they may see what peculiar beauty, elegance and simplicity, they often bestow, upon the sentences in which they occur; and how necessary they frequently are, to express their author's meaning. We make no apology for the number we shall cite, as we are persuaded that every one will wish it augmented.

“Moreover, it is not always between contemporary *peoples*, that the translator is obliged to interpret.”—*Vol. 2, p. 465.*

———“a sprinkling of the *coxcowbry*, of a French musquetaire.”—*No. 47, p. 211.*



——— “the various gradations of the celtic character, from the savage *imperturbability* of Dugald Mahony,” &c.—*No. 47, p. 210.*

“The following is Mr. Boyd’s imitation of that noble Lord, in what may be called the *metaphoroclastic* style.”—*No. 47, p. 70.*

“We accordingly find the Indian olympus more plentifully stocked, than any other *goddery* on record.”—*Vol. 17, p. 315.*

——— “though it is the most celebrated *Jeremiade* of the day.”—*Vol. 15, p. 355.*

“Religion is so noble and powerful a consideration—it is so buoyant and *insubmergible*.”—*Vol. 11, p. 360.*

——— “and our time and curiosity irrevocably devoted, before we are aware, to a sort of *encyclopedical* trifling.”—*Vol. 17, p. 162.*

“Burnet was a whig, and consequently a friend of limited monarchy; but his zeal for *Royalism*, [Royalty] was not so furious as to condemn the republication of Harrington and Milton.”—*No. 49, p. 176.*

——— “all perhaps good *colloquialisms*, but which in writing loose all their force.”—*Vol. 9, p. 193.*

“The *harrassment* of these applications, frequently produced unnecessary asperity in the management of the controversy,” &c.—*Vol. 9, p. 146-7.*

——— “it is a proposition founded on false metaphor, on the *dynamical* language employed too frequently, by writers on the subject of the balance of power.”—*Vol. 9, p. 264.*

——— “gave him as much torment, as ever the crushing of an ear-wig, or beating a Jack Ass, inflicted on the sensibility of a *lacrymose* German.”—*Vol. 9, p. 184-5*

“We cannot imagine how the greatest mass of genius and experience which the world ever saw, should ever lower the *drill-sergeantry* and heraldry of Germany, until we find Vienna, and Dresden, and Berlin, the head-quarters of French armies.”—*Vol. 9, p. 275-6.*

——— “of which one half was settled on his wife in case of her *survival*.”—*No. 48, p. 507.*

“In consequence of divers changes in our relations with foreign powers, since the date of the former orders, it has become neces-

sary, it is said, to alter them, and the alterations, it is *subsumed*, are merely such as were necessary to accommodate the said orders," &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 451.*

"Their habits will be new-modeled—their arms begin to rust—and local attachments will supersede the restlessness natural to *homeless* adventures."—*Vol. 16, p. 28.*

"Is it to be conceived, that the loss of a single chief will break in a moment the *pervasive* impulse of hostility and conquest, that now sways the whole mass of the French nation."—*Vol. 16, p. 24.*

"An instance of a curious mistake, committed by Chatterton, occurs in these *excerpts* from the pseudo-Rowley prose writings.—In a manuscript in Chatterton's hand writing in the museum, there occur several *excerpts* from Chaucer."—*Vol. 4, p. 228.*

Of this word *excerpts*, they seem peculiarly fond. It frequently occurs in their work: we have noted, besides the last, *vol. 2, p. 232*, and *vol. 10, p. 103*—and *p. 114*,

———"a statement of the periods of his different publications, with numerous *excerpts* from the correspondence of his friends, and various admirable *critiques*, both upon the nature of his merits as an author, and as a leader of the Scottish church"—*Steward's account of Robertson, Vol. 2, p. 332.*

"His *idolions* of reform, the gentle nurslings of his fancy, in times before the moral elements of mankind were dashed and confounded by the demons of sedition, fled dismayed, before the tempest of the French revolution."—*Vol. 5, p. 154.*

"Without supposing that this taste has in any degree been vitiated or even imposed upon by the *babyism* or the *antiquarianism*, which has lately been versified for its improvement," &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 1.*

———"It is a fault, however, that the style is occasionally a little affected, and that a certain varnish of *prettyism* and pedantry is sometimes spread over conceptions of the most beautiful simplicity."—*Vol. 7, p. 387.*

"Amid these desolating hostilities which represent man only as the enemy of man, there is a relief in this innocent *cosmopolitanism*," &c. &c.—*Vol. 1, p. 253.*

"When an author has moved through life, with nothing but innocence and common virtues to recommend him, we *would*



rather subscribe to the marble-cutter and the author of a monumental narrative, than read the *biographics* of his friends and admirers."—*Vol. 2, p. 231.*

———"through whose mind, the scattered rays of light seem to pass without any tendency to *convergence*."—*Vol. 2, p. 238.*

———"whole columns of *ana* and anecdotes are hashed up," &c. —*Vol. 11, p. 399.*

It seems that *ana* is singular, for we have the plural in the following sentence:—

———"thence to be transferred to the *anas* of the anecdote mongers."—*Vol. 10, p. 48.*

It is a favourite word; for in another place we have—

———"a publisher of books in *ana*."—*Vol. 7, p. 336.*

"To be distinguished for violence, at a period when no body is moderate; to influence the public bigotry during the omnipotence of political passions; to be more *incandescently* wrong-headed than any body else; and above all to remain mad when the rest of the world are returned to their senses—are sources of exultation which we should not be much inclined to deny to Mr. Belsham." —*Vol. 2, p. 184.*

"Thus the surprizing events which were but moderately *hyperbolized* at the time," &c.—*Dunlap on Fictions, No. 747.*

"Those who like the *prattlement* of young ladies, must naturally have some curiosity to know how they prattled seventy years ago." —*Vol. 15, p. 77.*

———"but while whole volumes of mere *prattlement* from a very young lady."—*ditto, p. 76.*

"The fact, however, appears to be quite undeniable; that they have gone on *pittering* to each other, in a jargon which resembles the chuckling of poultry, more than the language of men."—*Vol. —, p. 280.*

———"With all its imperfections, however, of incoherency, *desultoriness*,"—*Vol. 3, p. 354.*

———"The following is the best and most striking of a whole series of eloquent *hypochondriasm*."—*Vol. 13, p. 257.*

—— “and at all events, requires as little talent, and deserves as little praise, as the *mimetic* exhibitions, in the neighbourhood of Port-Sidney.”—*No. 40, p. 435.*

—— “their proper soil and *nidus*, is the privacy and simplicity of humble life.”—*No. 40, p. 231.*

“Why should Dr. Parr confine this *eulogomania*, to the literary characters of the island.”—*Vol. 1, p. 23.*

“The latter number of this *elope* would not be wholly unintelligible, if applied to a spirited coach horse, but we have never yet witnessed the phenomenon of a prancing indenture.”—*Dr Parr's Spital sermon, vol. 1. p. 23.*

This French word “*elope*,” which is so much more beautiful and expressive, than the english word eulogy, is a great favourite with our Reviewers. We have it of course in divers places, too numerous to mention. We will give a few of them only:—

“The first letter contains an *elope* on Count Rumford,” &c.—*Vol 3, p. 288.*

“Little is known of this political prodigy, except what can be gathered from incidental notices in his own works, and from the *elope* composed upon him, by his admirer and contemporary,” &c.—*Vol. 9, p. 224.*

“He composed a pompous *elope*, which he intended for the Academy of Berlin.”—*Vol. 7, p. 222.*

—— “and might have brought us back, not *anile* conjecture, but some evidence,” &c.—*Vol 2, p. 330.*

This word frequently occurs, as where they thus reverently speak of the Christian fathers:—

—— “abundantly proves, that the *moral* tenets of these *holy men*, are for the most part unnatural, *fantastical* and *dangerous*—founded upon *false* interpretations of holy writ, and the most *gross* and *anile* ignorance of human nature.”—*Boyd's translation from the Fathers, No. 47, p. 64.*

—— “the pompous rigidity of Chrisostom, the *stoic affectations* of Clemens Alexandrinus, and the *antithetical trifling* of Gregory Nazianzen.”—*Ditto, p. 66.*



"This indeed has always been a characteristic of the writings of the Fathers.—This ambidexterous [ambidextrous] faculty—this sort of *Swiss versatility of fighting equally well upon both sides* of the question, has distinguished them through the whole history of theological controversy."—*Ditto*, p. 59.

———"Nor are they chargeable only with the *impostures* of their own times; the sanction they gave to this petty *diabolism*, has made them responsible for whole centuries of *juggling*."—*Ditto*, p. 61.

"The same features of *craft* and *dupery*, are discoverable through the whole, from beginning to end."—*Ditto*, p. 62.

From these few extracts it may be perceived, that our Reviewers are not less remarkable for the purity of their religion, than the purity of their language.\*

\* Any one who wishes to be further satisfied of the purity of their religious principles, and how perfectly free they are from all bigotry, superstition and *fanaticism*, may read their Review of Boyd's Translations from the Fathers, from which we have taken these extracts, for another purpose—to shew the purity of their style.

If he entertain the same sentiments as our Reviewers, he must no doubt be marvellously delighted, to see those, whom bigoted Catholics have worshipped as Saints, and fanatical, superstitious protestants revered as martyrs, treated with the contempt they deserve—"to hear of their Christian heathenism, and heathen christianity"—of "their forgeries and falsehoods,"—of "their puerile and pernicious absurdities"—"to contemplate a picture of human folly and human knavery"—to learn that there were two maxims adopted and enforced by many of the fathers, which deserve to be branded with particular reprobation; and that the time of their authority over conscience and opinion is gone by; that they are no longer to be regarded as guides either in faith or morals, and much more to the same effect, which these reviewers assure us is quite within the pale of orthodoxy. If he is not satisfied with this let him see with what playful severity and grave satire, they can treat the clergy of the established Church of England, in the extracts which we have given in p. 35, of this work. And what unmeasured contempt and detestation they express for the Methodists and the evangelical sects—sects so numerous in Great Britain as to circulate of two periodical publications 20,000 each, when Addison could boast of circulating but 3000 of the Spectator—they have only to read the Review of Ingram on Methodism, vol. 11—and their Review of Styles, vol. 14, p. 41—from the latter of which we have given a few extracts for a different purpose.—See page 34–35 of this.

By turning to the source whence we have taken our extracts, the enlightened reader may be regaled with such sentiments as the following—"We shall use the general term Methodists to designate three classes of fanatics, not troubling ourselves to point out the finer shades and nicer discriminations of lunacy; but treating them all as in a general conspiracy against common sense."—Vol. 11, p. 342.

———"we are apt to feel more before a *mediocre* oration begins, than it ever aims at inspiring."—*Vol. 1, p. 88.*

———"that the Arabs, Hindus, and Tartars, constitute three distinct races, whose manners, history, language and *dogmata* are peculiar and unconnected."—*Vol. 1, p. 27.*

———"But alas, it is not in the private ranks of a regular army, who have *campaigned* in foreign lands, till all domestic recollections are nearly worn out, that we are to look for refined notions of propriety," &c.—*No. 47, p. 261*

———"all that necessary labour being absorbed either in necessary consumption or in the *replacement* of capital, can never form a part of the actual mass of riches."—*Vol. 1, p. 433.*

What peculiar purity and elegance, is given to the following sentences, by so great a number of beautiful French words!—They must no doubt be highly edifying and refreshing to the English reader

"It is somewhat novel, to hear such language from a *commis* of that government."—*Vol. 3, p. 85.*

"We might also mention his idea of a just land tax, which he says ought not to be proportioned to the rental; for that is fallacious, or to the produce, for that would be unjust, but fixed by a *cadastre* made upon actual survey of the quantity of each acre."—*Vol. 4, p. 49.*

"For the two following years, she travels all over Germany, abusing all the *principautés* she meets with," &c.

———"after various *projets* had been offered and rejected, she made these three conditions: 1st. That the whole *cortege* of the Empress, should receive him at the bottom of the stair-cause."—*No. 40, p. 274.*

The new word 'cortege' is in great favour with our Reviewers; we have—

———"the Empress and her brilliant *cortege*," &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 110.*

"The sage of Samos, with his usual *cortege* of lowing Oxen, and bleating Sheep."—*Vol. 3, p. 32.*

———"the people, as is well known, always seduced by the *prestiges* which surround the great man."



"There is something very edifying indeed, though we should fear a little alarming to courtly tempers, in the warmth with which the author winds up his *diatribe* on this interesting subject."—*Vol. 14, p. 498.*

"There is great talent, however, as well as great courtesy in this *diatribe*," &c.—*Vol. 14, p. 181—see also vol. 10, p. 190.*

—— "After these *tirades*, &c."—*Vol. 8, p. 350.*

"We shall not pretend to give any account of his arguments, or any specimens of a style altogether *unique* for bombast," &c.—*Vol. 8, p. 360.*

—— "to trace the *debut* of Madame de Stael, as an author at the age of twelve, in the year ——! to understand M. Grimm's notions on suicide and happiness—to know in what the *unique* charm of Mad'le Thevenin consisted," &c.—*No. 42, p. 298.*

"According to the most approved custom of *petits maitres*, in the year 1748, when he made his *debut* at Paris."—*No. 42, p. 265.*

"It is no less curious and *unique*, to find Mrs. Hutchenson, officiating as Surgeon to the wounded, &c."—*Review of the life of Col. Hutchenson, vol. 13, p. 22.*

"We have said more to recommend this little volume to all true lovers of poetry, than if we had employed a much larger space than it occupies, with a *critique* [criticism] and analysis of its contents."—*No. 42, p. 301.*

—— "*critiques* upon all new publications," &c.—*No. 42, p. 265.*

—— "one of the most amusing, is that of the *congé* which he gave," &c.—*No. 42, p. 271.*

—— "at all events, they give us a pretty lively idea of the *liasons* that united kindred souls at Paris."—*No. 42, p. 286.*

—— "of Louis 14's former *liasons* with the Prince's mother."—*Vol. 17, p. 56.*

—— "if the common people are *ensui'd* with the fine acting of Mrs. Siddon's, they go to Sadler's wells."—*Vol. 11, p. 360.*

So we have the adjective ennuyee:—

“We have already said something of the state of society. In addition to the fault of being too artificial and too *recherché*, it was evidently too profligate and unprincipled.”—*Vol. 7, p. 383.*

“There is something truly *dechirant* in the natural and piteous iteration of her eloquent complaining.”—*Vol. 15, p. 481.*

M. Thiebault, was one of the many French *savans*, whom Frederick the 2d, invited to settle in his capital.”—*Vol. 7, p. 218.*

—— “on one of these occasions, the *savants* in waiting were,” &c.—*Vol. 7, p. 232.*

“M. Thiebault affirms, that when he pursued his pitiless system after the termination of the seven years war, only one *roturier* was left in commission,” &c.—*Vol. 7, p. 236.*

“And his extraordinary familiarity, with the best models has endowed him with that *tact* and quickness of perception, which instinctively rejects whatever could offend against refinement and propriety.”—*No. 49, p. 152.*

—— “a certain *tact* which informs us at once.”—*No. 47, p. 3.*

“The author seems to disdain giving himself *en spectacle* to his readers.”—*Vol. —, p. 275.*

“The general and peremptory proscription of the *bourgeois* excluded no doubt, a good deal of vulgarity and coarseness.”—*Vol. 15, p. 459.*

“Her tone is admirable; her wit flowing and natural; and though a little given to detraction, and not a little importunate and *exigente* towards those, on whose complaisance she had claims,” &c.—*Vol. 15, p. 474.*

“She is also recorded to have frequently declared, that she could never bring herself to love any thing—though in order to take every possible chance, she had several times attempted to become *devote*—with no great success.—This we have no doubt was the secret of her *ennui*.”—*Vol. 15, p. 474.*

“His work consists only of *Morceaux*—of brilliant passages.”—*No. 48, p. 333.*

—— “another quality which he confesses is *mauvaise-honte*.”—*Vol. 8, p. 354.*



"The whole of this dreadful plot we are assured, was revealed to the King, with its *particularités*, &c.—No. 4, p. 260.

"He was *véry* stupid, she says, with great airs of wisdom—had no generosity but for his favourites and mistresses, by whom he let himself be governed—spoke little and took no pleasure in hearing any thing but *niaiseries*.—No. 40, p. 262.

"The truth of the matter is, the Princess assures us, that George the 2d was himself desirous that the match should be concluded without waiting for the uncertain sanction of Parliament, and had suggested this devise of a seeming *etourderie* on the part of his son," &c.—No. 40, p. 264.

"Their domestic life, when these *galas* were over, was nearly as fatiguing and still more lugubrious."—No. 40, p. 272.

—"but such elaborate *doceurs*, as occur in the following letter to Mrs. Montague—look too much like adulation."—Vol. 10, p. 190.

—"and the tone in which M. Grimm notices it, as a mere *foiblesse* on the part of Le Grand Maurice."—No. 42, p. 94.

"Whatever the partial biographer say to the contrary, this was a post of little more than mere *faste*, and its duties confined solely to representation."—Vol. 11, p. 305.

—"this spot, more *sombre* and *triste* than the rest of Italy," &c.—Vol. 11, p. 187.

"Even if it were possible for a mere *dilettante* to avoid, &c."—Vol. 11, p. 213.

"The Abbe de Delille, seems to have feared this, and two vast bundles of verse, each divided into twelve *fasciculi*, have been published in France as poetical versions of the *Ænied* and *Paradise Lost*."—Vol. 15, p. 355.

"However little we may prize the loose rhapsodies and sentimental effusions of a middling person like M. Kotzebue, they are likely to interest us more strongly than a bare repetition of what all former travellers had said in a better style; or a collection of the *cognocenza*, which is poured out by *Ciceroni*, for a couple of piastres a day."—Vol. 7, p. 459.

"It is in some measure ludicrous, and in some measure melancholy to see a clumsy saturnine man of letters, giving himself the airs of a *gourmand* and *ejoué*."

"All this we must confess rather disheartened us, but our astonishment it will naturally be believed was extreme, when we discovered as we went on that our plodding pedantic *archæologist* who left this country with a confirmed character for all these accomplishments in 1812, was in the course of three little years, transformed into a strange likeness of a Parisian *petit maitre*; was become a profound critic in wines, dressed dishes, and ornaments of the table; was in raptures with the freedom and gallantry of the French ladies; prattled pieces of *sophism*, about adultery and the laws of divorce; and affecting an air of the most amiable *etourderie*, indicated the profoundest contempt for the usages and fashions of this melancholy island."—*Vol. 8, p. 414.*

Those who are struck with the purity of the style in the last sentence, cannot fail to be equally struck with the exquisite wit and humour of the sentence which follows:—

"Yet after all, we think that most readers must be a little startled, when the example of a bas-relief, of a young woman looking for a flea upon her *chemise*, as a striking example of the elegant fancy and amiability of the French artists."—*Vol. 8, p. 418.*

The Scotch Reviewers very properly advise one of our authors to "pay some attention to purity of style and simplicity of composition, and to cherish in himself a certain fastidiousness of taste—which is not yet to be found we are afraid"—say they—"even among the better educated Americans."—*Vol. 15, p. 39.*

Now every person who reads the extracts which we have given, must be convinced that this cannot be more successfully accomplished than by the frequent perusal, and constant study, of their great work. Yes, these are the men, who are to oppose a barrier to those corruptions of the English language, which have been so rapidly gaining ground for some time past, and threaten to render the writings of Addison, and Swift, and Pope, in a very short time, obsolete.

But to constitute purity of style, it is not at all necessary (as has been seen) that the style and language should be *purely English*. On the contrary it may, without injuring its purity, be interlarded with words and phrases borrowed from any language—the French, the Italian, or the Spanish; the Persic, or the Sanscrit.



And if they are not understood by the mere English Scholar—so much the better: it will “make the ignorant stare”—as Hamlet says.

We certainly feel under vast obligations to the Scotch Reviewers, for having so marvelously improved the English tongue. We hope they will go on in the good work which they have so prosperously begun, and enrich our language with spoils from “every kindred, and nation, and tongue.” Thus in time we may hope to see the language of Babel—so celebrated by ancient authors for its copiousness—revived among us.

It must be remembered, however, by our learned—or perhaps we ought to say our unlearned readers, that these great literary potentates have very properly reserved to themselves, as a branch of their royal prerogative, the right of coining new words, or giving currency to those which are foreign and that they would not permit a subject, though “an Earl and a Colonel of Cavalry,” and what is still more a Scotchman, to manufacture—or, as they elegantly and wittily express it, “to raise a single new word.”—Though all that this distinguished person did, was in imitation of the example of the Reviewers, in using “peoples” for people, to use the word “arm” instead of arms, to denote a piece of armour.—*See vol. 15, p 506.*

So reproving the same liberty when taken by Sir Robert Wilson, in his book on the Russian army, they indignantly exclaim—

“What will our readers think of a vocabulary, in which are to be found chivalresque, disunitable, evitate!”—*Vol. 18, p. 232.*

And they even rebuke—and in pretty severe terms—their now loving friend Lord Byron, for trespassing upon their prerogative, and daring to usurp a privilege which they will permit no one but themselves to exercise:

“We do not think it *absolutely necessary*—say they—that every one should follow up the example of the noble author, to whose

poems Meninsky's 'Lexicon Arabico-Persico-Turcicum' forms such an indispensable appendage; and who listens to the *bulbul*, when Christian folks would have been better pleased with the strains of the Nightingale."—*No. 49, p. 167.*

And this too, after having bestowed no light censure upon him, in their review of his *Giaour*, for his "untranslated words, and unchristian appellations."—

So in reviewing Southey's *Roderick*, they say:—

—"the diction is still too much affected with strange words; which, whether they are old or new, are not *English* at the present day—and we hope never will become so."—*No. 49, p. 30-1.*

And they give our poet Barlow,\* one of those "moderate castigations" which they erst bestowed upon the "minor poet," Byron, for having presumed to borrow from these obscure, unheard of authors, Shakespeare, Milton, Brown, Burnet, and Woodward, such words as "crass, conglaciate, gride," the verb to "gyve," and the adjective "millennial," &c. which they say "are as utterly foreign as if they had been adopted from the Hebrew or the Chinese."—*Vol. 15, p. 28-9.*

The length to which we have already extended our remarks upon the *Edinburgh Review*, renders it neces-

\* In mentioning Barlow, whom some one has called the "American Epic Poet," we will merely say, that we have never *read*—though we have occasionally looked into his *Columbiade*:—and while we have Homer, Milton and Virgil, we hope we never shall read it. Still between the poet Barlow—low as we are disposed to rate him—and by far the greater number of poets who now *adorn* the British isles, we really think there is no comparison:—and that among all the countless epic poets of the present day—though so numerous in Great Britain as to furnish six to a country "tea-drinking."—(*Edin. Review, vol. 11, p. 362*)—Joel Barlow is decidedly the first!

But why need we give our opinion in his favour, when he has the great Scotch critics themselves, in much stronger language. "We have no hesitation in saying, that we consider him *great* in comparison with *many* of the puling and paltry rhymsters, who disgrace our English Literature by their occasional success."—*Review of Barlow's Columbiade, vol. 15, p. 39.*

Mr. Barlow has never disgraced the American literature by his *success*:—he published a splendid edition of his poem at his own expense, which we believe was almost entirely bestowed by him in presents—and there the circulation ended. We will take upon ourselves to say, that where there has been one volume of the *Columbiade* sold in this country, there has been ten thousand of the *Paradise Lost*.



sary for us to draw to a close; which we cannot do without earnestly recommending it to the study of all the “ingenious youth of our country” who are desirous to acquire purity of style, and to “cherish in themselves a certain fastidiousness of taste—which is not yet to be found”—we are told by our great masters—“even among the better educated of the Americans.”

But what is still more important, the study of the *Edinburgh Review* will tend to give them that dignified and becoming contempt for their own country, which is the foundation of all national greatness; and with which those enlightened philanthropists, the British travellers, have so long laboured to inspire us.

A familiar acquaintance with the *Edinburgh Review* will also free the youthful mind from all narrow bigotry, weak superstition, and foolish fanaticism; and instil into them the *religious* opinions of Hume and Gibbon, and the pure *morals* of Bolingbroke and Voltaire. And lastly, as the profound speculations of sapient politicians and oracular statesmen—in this country of politicians and statesmen—their writings are invaluable. What a privilege that, from their extensive circulation, all classes of our countrymen can drink wisdom from the fountain head!

We here close what we had to say.—These great critics—marvellous to relate—make it a ground of grievous accusation against the poet Southey, that “he has actually taken the pains to pore over their political speculations for five years.” Nothing but that wonderful modesty, of which they have given so many and such signal proofs, could render this, in their eyes, matter of blame. For ourselves, we take a pride in avowing, that ‘their most edifying volumes’—to borrow the language of Swift, when speaking of the great critics of his time—‘we turn indefatigably over day and night, for the improvement of our minds, and the good of our country.’

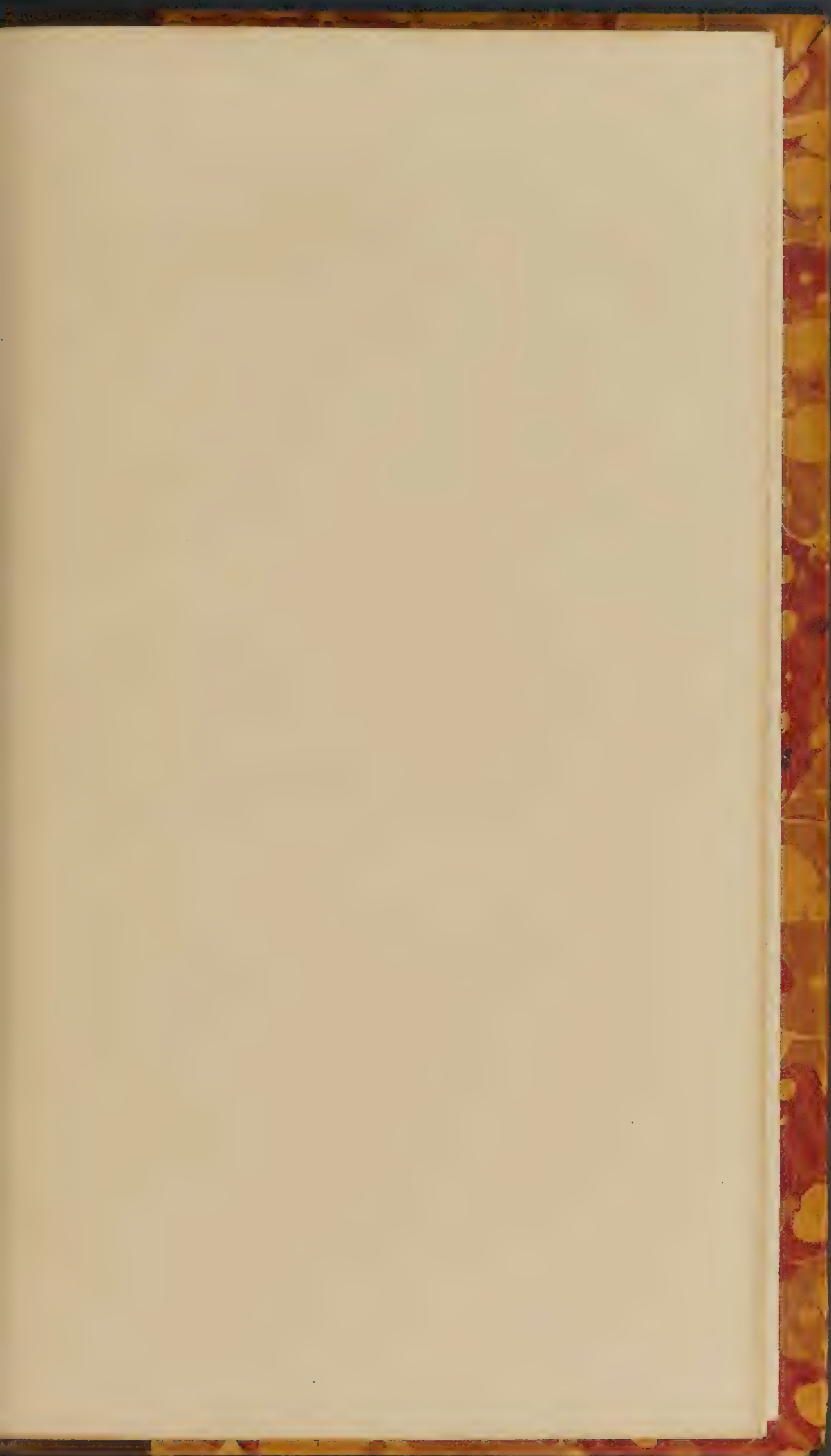
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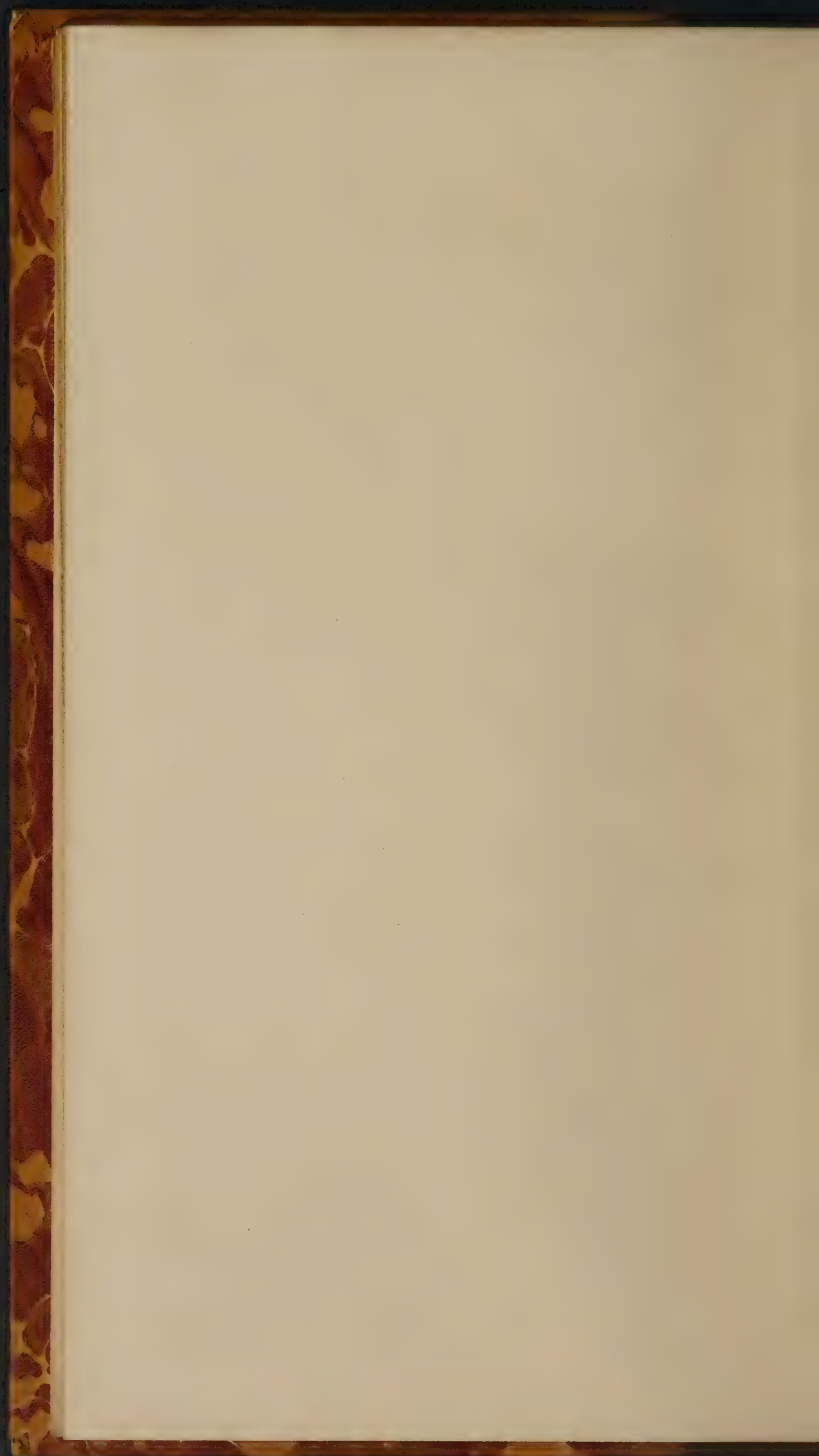


*ERRATA.*—In page 23, line 7, from the top, for “*insanity*,” read *inanity*,—page 27, line 10, from the top, for “*Lamb*,” read *Lambe*—page 39, lines 4 and 5, from the bottom, for “*blackardism*,” read *blackguardism*; and for *desultriness*,” read *desultoriness*—page 40, line 2, from the bottom, for “*cox-cowbry*,” read *coxcombry*,—In page 3, last line, for “*have*,” read *has*.

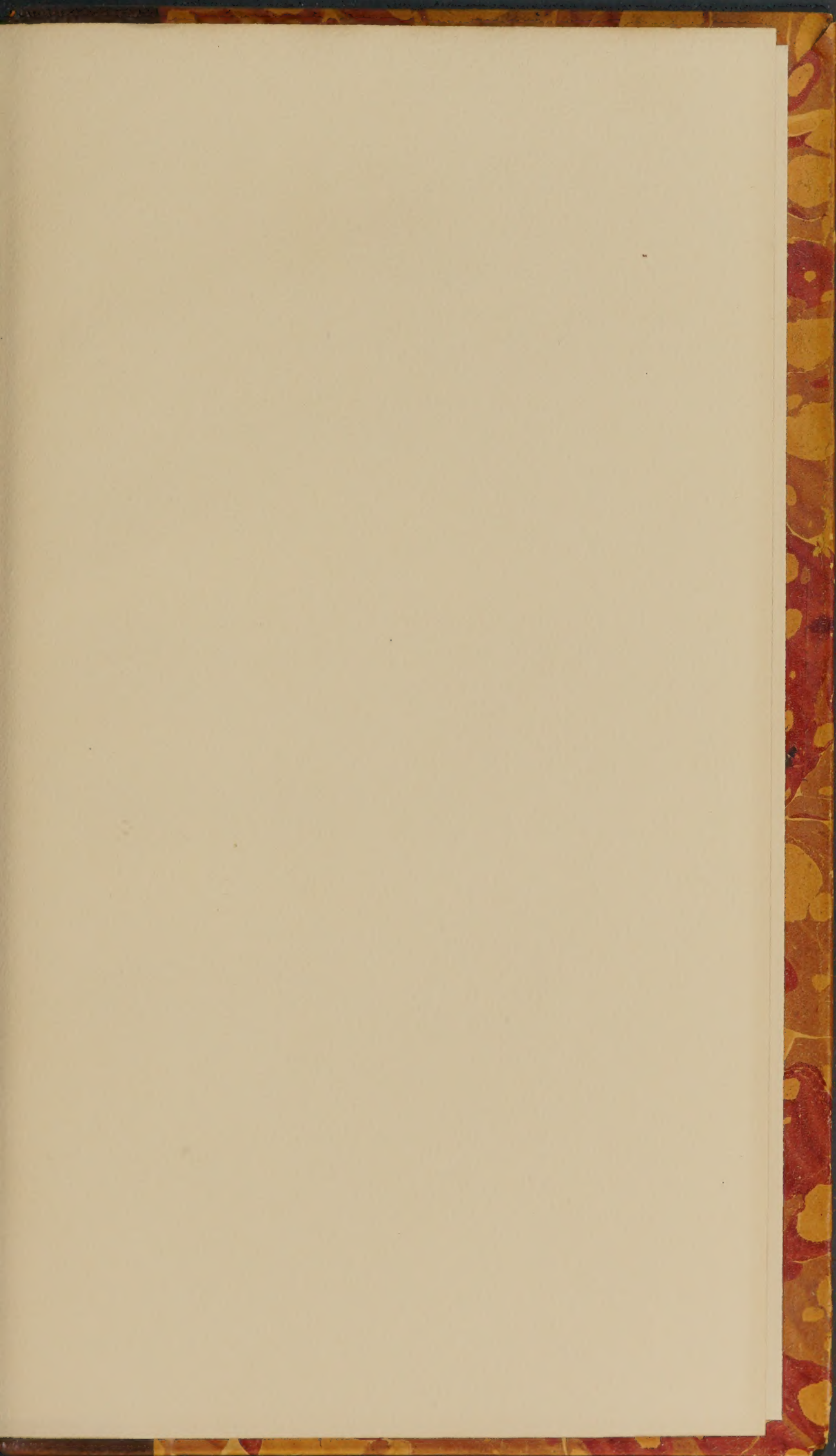
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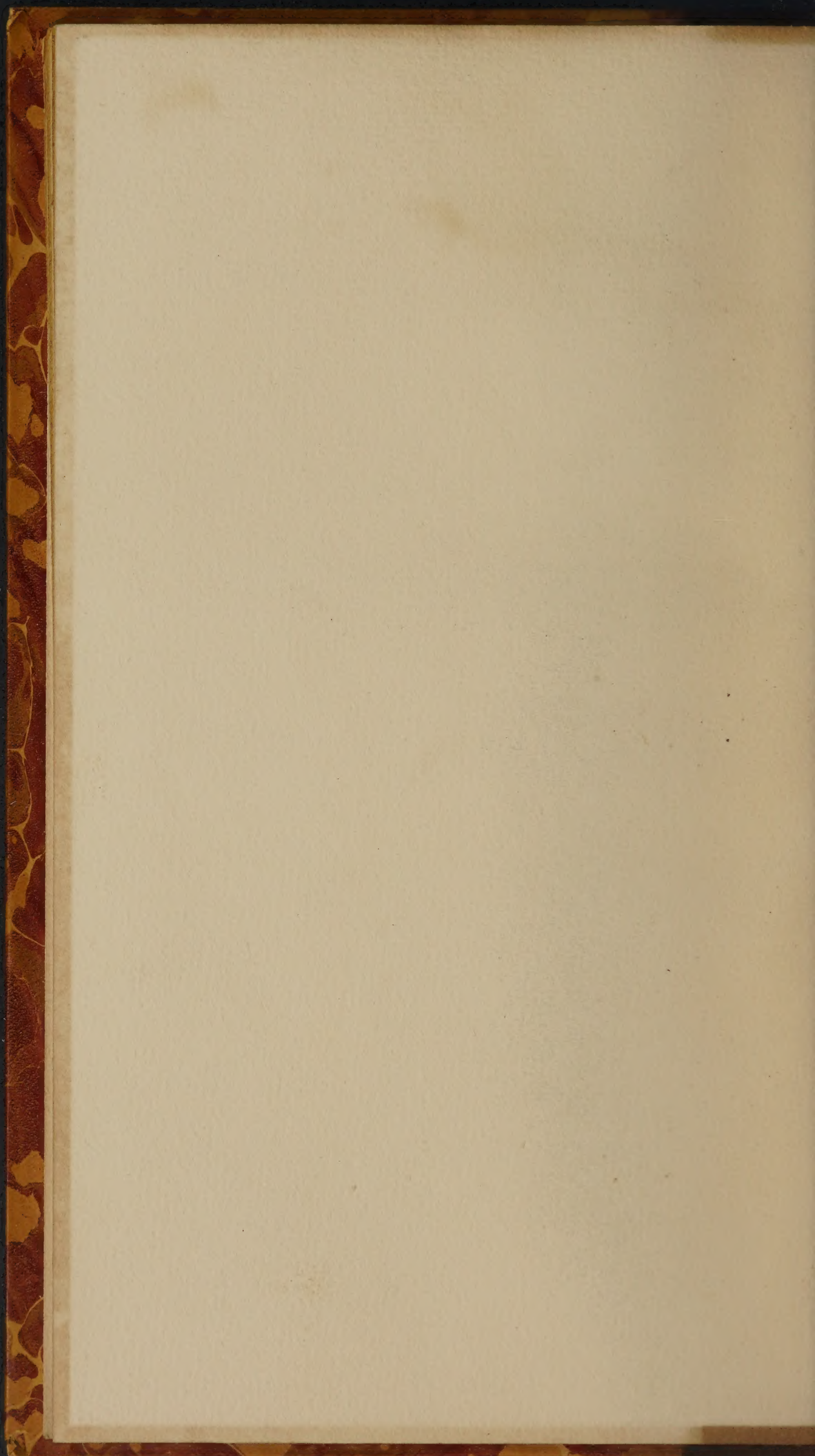














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